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Two Irishmen face charges on Kent barracks bombing

By David Sapsted

TWO Irishmen will be charged within two weeks in connection with last year's IRA bombing of the Deal barracks in Kent in which 11 Royal Marine bandmen died. Lawyers for the Crown Prosecution Service were yesterday studying papers that senior Kent detectives say will lead to charges.

The two men, from Dublin and Belfast, are in custody on other charges. The breakthrough for officers investigating the explosion last September at the Royal Marines' School of Music came earlier this week with what one senior officer described as "the uncovering of vital new evidence."

A squad of Kent detectives has been attempting to track down the bombers since a bandmen's recreation and changing room was destroyed by the IRA bomb. Ten musicians died immediately and the eleven in October.

The search has concentrated on two Irishmen who rented a holiday home in Campbell Road, Deal, ostensibly for a fortnight's fishing, less than three weeks before the explosion.

The house backs on to the barracks and it was from there that the bombers are thought to have planted the device almost a week before it went off.

A woman is also being sought in connection with the explosion but detectives said they had yet to learn her identity or whereabouts.

It is believed she may have been a courier who arrived at Dover from the Continent by ferry and left the country by the same route before the explosion.

Since the bombing, Kent officers have made extensive inquiries throughout Britain and undertaken complicated cross-checking of computer records.

Identikit pictures of the men who rented the Campbell Road house have also been produced.

The first break in the inquiry occurred shortly before Christmas when two men were arrested at the site of an arms cache on the west Wales coast at Newgale. Armed officers from Dyfed-Powys police and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad had kept watch

on the site for seven weeks before the two men, one of them allegedly armed with a shotgun, arrived there on the evening of December 21.

The arms cache included 100 pounds of Semtex explosive, automatic rifles and pistols, and detonators and timers. In a follow-up operation in the Luton area of Bedfordshire, another 15lb of the explosive were found at what detectives believed was an IRA "safe" house.

Other equipment, including wires, batteries and connectors, were also found in underground in January less than a mile from the site of the original arms find.

Officially, Kent police will neither confirm that charges are imminent nor that they are questioning any suspects. Privately, senior detectives said they were "delighted" with developments.

They have believed all along that the perpetrators were not among known IRA terrorists but were part of a new, young breed trained in the Republic and sent to Britain and the Continent last summer to carry out attacks.

Editor's contempt charge dismissed

IAN Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, was jubilant yesterday after escaping a jail sentence or fine in the High Court for alleged contempt over libellous stories about Mrs Sonia Sutcliffe.

Mr Justice Popplewell dismissed an attempt by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, to commit or fine both Mr Hislop and the publishers of the magazine over two articles which cost them £100,000 in damages. He said he would give his reasons at a later date.

The articles appeared in the magazine in February 1989, three months before the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper won £600,000 in libel damages against the magazine.

Outside court Mr Hislop said: "I had my toothbrush in my pocket but now it will not be used. I don't feel like a banana. Myself and *Private Eye* have been vindicated. I always said it was not what I had intended."

The Attorney General claimed the two articles, which wrongly alleged that Mrs Sutcliffe had knowingly given her husband, Peter Sutcliffe, a false alibi and had defamed the DHSS, were intended to prejudice the trial.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, for the Attorney General, said the editor and the publishers had breached the 1981 Contempt of Court Act. He said it was an attempt to "prejudice the course of justice and prejudice potential jurors."

But the attempt "badly backfired" and Mrs Sutcliffe was awarded the enormous sum of £600,000 libel damages against the magazine in May last year, later cut to £60,000 on appeal.

The two articles were published before the hearing took place and Mr Collins said it was an attempt to deter and dissuade Mrs Sutcliffe from bringing the action.

In the witness box, Mr Hislop said it was not his intention to prejudice the trial or put pressure on Mrs Sutcliffe.

He said he "very much regretted" that the articles had been published and wished to apologize to the court.

French report points to trial for Eksund five

By Jamie Dettmer

THE five-man Irish crew of the Eksund, the freighter caught off Brittany in 1987 shipping arms, surface-to-air missiles and Semtex explosive from Libya to the IRA, look set to be sent for trial on terrorism charges in Paris, it emerged yesterday.

A 4,000-page report by the French investigating judge into the Eksund, which was intercepted carrying 150 tonnes of weaponry valued at £15 million, has been forwarded to prosecutors for the drawing up of charges.

The report is understood to confirm that the Eksund was the fifth in a series of arms shipments from Libya to the IRA. It also establishes that high-ranking Libyan officials supervised the transfer of weapons and explosives on to freighters destined for the IRA in 1985 and 1986.

According to a report in yesterday's *Economist*, there were three senior Libyan officials overseeing the trade. One of them was involved in negotiating the release of the staff at the Libyan People's Bureau in London after the shooting of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher in 1984.

The five Irishmen arrested on board the Eksund in October 1987 have been held for the past two years in Paris. They have been moved regularly between three prisons - La Santé, Fresnes and Fleury-Merogis. They are believed to have refused to co-operate with the inquiry carried out by M Jean-Louis Bruguiere, the investigating judge.

The five are: Adrian Hopkins, aged 49, the Eksund's captain, from Dublin, who had shipped the four previous arms shipments from Libya; Henry Cairns from Co Wicklow; Gabriel Cleary, aged 45, from Priortown, Co Dublin, who was a top bomb-maker in the IRA; James Doherty, aged 44, an electrician from Co Donegal and a known IRA member; and James Coll, aged 36, another known IRA member from Co Donegal. Apart from Mr Hopkins and Mr Cairns, all the

other crew members travelled on false passports taken from a batch of 100 stolen from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 1984.

The four shipments from Libya in 1985 and 1986 are believed to have amounted to at least 120 tonnes. The first was in August 1985 carried aboard the Casamara, a converted yacht, which was loaded with 10 tonnes of weaponry during a rendezvous off the Maltese island of Gozo with the Libyan ship Samra Africa.

The cargo, comprising 500 boxes, contained Soviet-made Kalashnikov AK47 rifles, Taurus automatic pistols, hand-grenades and seven Belgian-made rocket-propelled-grenade launchers. The Casamara unloaded at Clogga Strand, 40 miles south of Dublin.

In October 1985 the Casamara appeared again, renamed the Kula. It carried a further 10 tonnes of equipment to Clogga Strand, including Soviet-made 12.7mm heavy anti-aircraft machine-guns, known as Dushkars.

In July 1986, the Kula shipped 14 tonnes of weapons to the Irish Republic; that time the cargo included two Sam-7 missiles.

The last known completed arms shipment was made in September 1986 by a bigger vessel, the Villa. More than 80 tonnes of weaponry was loaded on board the Villa off Tripoli. The cargo included Czech-made Semtex explosive and 10 Sam-7s.

A new independent legal appeals body is to be set up in the Irish Republic to examine possible miscarriages of justice. The Government has accepted a report commissioned by Mr Ray Burke, the Justice Minister, after the Guildford Four case last year.

Legislation is expected to be introduced shortly and this could become law by the end of the year.

The report also recommends that the questioning of suspects in police stations should take place before a video recorder.

Sculpted prophecy for US cathedral



Simon Verity, a British sculptor, standing next to a column of the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine in New York city. He has been commissioned to carve major and minor prophets for the great central portal of the building. Started in 1892, it will be the world's largest Gothic cathedral once construction is complete.

Plot trial hears of police pressure

SOPHIA Wilberforce told the Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that vicious police interrogation made her paint a false picture of her aunt.

Pressure during eight hours of interviews led her to portray Lady Margaret Illingworth as drunk, the court was told.

Miss Wilberforce said: "It was very difficult to even form sentences. Detective Constable Longmore was very, very vicious. I could not think straight."

Mr Timothy Barnes, QC, for the prosecution, suggested to Miss Wilberforce that both she and her mother had sought to portray Lady Illingworth as a "woman who drunk to great excess" as a means of offloading her on to the authorities.

He told the court that Baroness Susan de Stempel told doctors at Hereford Hospital that Lady Illingworth was an alcoholic and that she had been trying

to stop her drinking heavily since February 1984.

Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Miss Wilberforce, aged 27, all deny conspiring to steal Lady Margaret Illingworth's £500,000 fortune.

Baroness Susan de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two of forgery.

The court heard that Lady Illingworth was admitted to hospital in December 1984 after allegedly smashing the windows of the family home in Docklow, Hereford and Worcester, with a hammer.

Miss Wilberforce said: "When I was interviewed by police it was difficult to think about anything other than the image the policeman behind me was portraying."

"I did say that I had seen my great aunt

drunk, but that was not true. She was tipsy, and it was a mistake to say that she was drunk." Miss Wilberforce said she thought doctors had told her mother that Lady Illingworth had a drink problem.

She said she described her great aunt's housekeeper, Miss Cathy Wheelodon, as "cruel and malicious" because they were words suggested by police.

Mr Barnes suggested that Miss Wilberforce had known of her great aunt's wealth before she went to live with her in London in 1982. He went on to say that Miss Wilberforce had attempted to find out more about Lady Illingworth's finances by searching through one of her handbags, which was found by the housekeeper under her bed.

Miss Wilberforce said: "I don't remember the incident. My great aunt had lots of handbags."

The trial continues on Monday.

Life for killers in M25 rampage

THREE "evil and dangerous" members of a gang that terrorized people living near the M25 were yesterday jailed for life for murder.

During the last three months of 1988, one man was killed; another almost died after being stabbed; a young mother was raped in her own bed; a policeman escaped death by ducking when a gun was fired at him from 4ft, and more than 20 homes were ransacked.

An elderly woman was told that if she did not hand over her rings, her fingers would be cut off.

Randolph Johnson, aged 25, of no fixed address; Michael Davis, aged 23, and Raphael Rowe, aged 22, both of Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, south-east London, were jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court for murdering Mr Peter Hurburgh, who was dragged out of his car at gunpoint. Mr Hurburgh and a friend were tied up and gagged, and when Mr Hurburgh refused to hand over his cash the gang kicked him and jumped on his chest, smashing his rib cage.

The two men were doused with petrol and one of the gang walked round them with a match. Mr Hurburgh, who had a weak heart, died as a result of the attack.

Later that night, the trio broke into the home of Mr Richard Napier, a retired busi-

ness, who with his son Tim fought the intruders. Mr Tim Napier was stabbed in the chest, back and arm. An artery was severed. Mr Justice Auld said it was only the surgeon's skill that saved him.

Police Constable Adrian Hook was shot by Johnson after a high-speed chase, but went on to arrest the gunman. Besides the life sentence, Johnson was jailed for 15 years for robbery, rape, and causing grievous bodily harm. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The rape victim was a woman in her thirties who, with her husband, woke at 3.15 am to find the trio had broken into their Surrey home. The couple were tied up and blindfolded, and Johnson raped the woman on her bed. Afterwards, he told her: "I'm sorry. Don't hate me."

Rowe and Davis were also given concurrent 15-year sentences for robbery, causing grievous bodily harm, and firearms offences.

Jason Cooper, aged 20, also of Lawrie Park Road, who joined the gang for some of the raids, was jailed for seven years for burglary and robbery.

The judge told Johnson, Davis and Rowe they had indulged in an orgy of violence: "You are three evil and dangerous men. You struck terror into your victims."

Alert for nuns after city attack

By Kerry Gill

POLICE were last night hunting a man who carried out a sexual assault on a nun, aged 41, in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, as she was on her way to a Bible class.

She was forced into a car and taken to the park, but later freed by the man, said to be well-dressed with an English accent.

Det Supt Joe Jackson said the nun hailed a taxi and was taken to her convent before being transferred to hospital where she underwent treatment for "serious injuries."

"This is a bizarre, unusual and desperate attack and there is a distinct possibility it was targeted. I am concerned for the safety of nuns in the city. At the moment we are looking at all aspects of nuns' safety," Mr Jackson said.

The attack occurred on Monday evening but police disclosed the details only yesterday.

Police are looking for a tall, well-dressed Englishman in his mid-40s.

Father Tom Connelly, spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, said: "Any act of violence against a woman has to be deplored, but this one seems to be particularly dreadful. We must pray for this man's health as he obviously is very sick and has a severe problem."

Pollution 'worse than recognized'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

POLLUTION in the North Sea and its impact on fisheries and other marine life is greater than previously recognized, according to the results of an investigation that ended yesterday.

The findings come from an exploration by eight research vessels and 70 scientists from all of the countries bordering the North Sea, and the United States and Canada, to test new and more precise methods for measuring contamination in living organisms.

Dr Tony Stebbing, from the Natural Environment Research Council's Plymouth Marine Laboratory and leader of the British group, believes less than 1 per cent of the estimated 50,000 contaminants in the marine environment is measured by chemical analysis.

Furthermore, chemical analysis cannot test for the "cocktail" effect of contaminants in which the combined toxicity to living organisms of tiny concentrations of pollutants is increased several times.

The new methods of biological monitoring tested over the past three weeks are based largely on techniques developed at Plymouth.

The results were discussed at the end of the voyages yesterday at a meeting at the Alfred Wegener Institute at Bremerhaven, West Ger-

many, when the researchers adopted the biological measurements as the most sensitive indicator of threats to marine life.

It should end disputes between scientists about the interpretation of each other's measurements because of the different analytical techniques in use.

● The squelching, rotting algae that lurks off the northern Adriatic coast, threatening to submerge the local Italian tourist industry this summer, is to be held at bay by a nylon boom developed by Alfa International of Aberdeen (Kerry Gill writes).

A barrier will be anchored 600 metres out to sea to prevent the mass of pea-brown sludge, creeping towards some of Europe's most popular beaches.

The first consignment of equipment, which will be used to build the boom, leaves Scotland for Italy today.

The contracts, worth more than £600,000, have been awarded to Alfa by a number of local authorities virtually panic-stricken by the prospect of tourists disappearing in their droves.

Mr John McMurtrie, the company's managing director, said: "We are confident that our barriers will prevent the algae from polluting the tourist beaches."

Judges clear man of Notting Hill murder

A MAN jailed for life for murdering a street trader in a row over a can of Coca-Cola at the 1987 Notting Hill carnival was cleared by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Alban Turner, aged 26, walked to freedom amid clapping and cheering from a court crowded with his supporters after the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, branded the main prosecution witness in the case a "lying witness."

Lord Lane, who heard the appeal with Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Judge, directed that a transcript of the fresh evidence given to the Appeal Court by Mr Kevin Sarbutts earlier this month should be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Sarbutts, of Elmridge, Steinerdale, Lancashire, first came forward to implicate Mr Turner two months after the stabbing of Michael Galvin. During the appeal he said he had lied at the trial because of police pressure.

Lord Lane said: "On any view Sarbutts has perverted the course of justice by committing deliberate perjury. Either he wickedly

caused a conviction of murder by voluntarily giving false evidence or, equally wickedly, he has now procured the release from prison of the man he knows to be guilty."

It would be pointless to order Mr Turner to undergo another trial for murder. His conviction was "unsatisfactory". The judge also rejected all allegations of police impropriety levelled by Mr Sarbutts.

Pandemonium erupted in the corridor outside the court as news of the verdict reached supporters. They were joined by singing and cheering members of Mr Turner's family.

Mr Turner, asked how he felt when he heard Lord Lane's decision, said: "I was absolutely delighted."

Mrs Susan Staveley, his solicitor, said: "He has maintained his innocence since the day he was arrested. Now we are happy to see a miscarriage of justice has been righted."

Mr Turner, who had his murder conviction quashed and sentence set aside, was ordered to serve a minimum 20 years of a life jail sentence by Judge Verney at Aylesbury Crown Court in December



Alban Turner giving a clenched-fist salute as he is hugged by his mother outside court after being freed

1988, after an abortive trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Lord Lane said Mr Sarbutts had been a crucial witness at the Central Criminal Court and at Aylesbury. He identified Mr Turner as the killer.

But on the first anniversary of the conviction, Mr Sarbutts retracted his sworn evidence, Lord Lane said. Mr Sarbutts

told a journalist he had been "terrorized" by detectives into framing Mr Turner. In statements to the Police Complaints Authority he repeated his allegations and said he had acted as he did through "a bit of fear and a bit of greed". He had received a £6,500 reward.

Lord Lane said: "We are convinced his evidence before

the Central Criminal Court and Aylesbury was given voluntarily and was not the result of police misconduct."

Mr Sarbutts was highly intelligent, unprincipled and unreliable, Lord Lane said.

The Appeal Court rejected his allegations that he had been bribed and beaten up by the police and had given £500 from his £6,500 reward to a senior officer.

The court had been troubled by the non-disclosure of Mr Sarbutts's full criminal record at the trials. Also worrying was the inability of the Central Criminal Court jury to reach a verdict. The prosecution had depended entirely upon Mr Sarbutts. Lord Lane said: "We believe that Sarbutts is a lying witness."

"Given the crucial importance of this evidence from a self-confessed liar to Turner's conviction, and with the background of the previous jury disagreement and the fact that the second jury did not have quite the whole of the material evidence about his previous convictions, we have come to the conclusion that this conviction is not satisfactory."

Pop duo spent £700,000 in 18 months, court told

By Robin Young

THE squeaky clean, crocheted blond twins who constitute the pop group Bros are out of control in their spending, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday. So much so that Luke and Matt Goss are in a "serious" financial position, counsel for 3 Style Ltd, their former management company, claimed.

At a preliminary hearing in a legal battle between the twins and 3 Style, the company's counsel, Mr Mark Cran QC, said the brothers had spent almost £700,000 in the space of 18 months.

Between April 1988 and October 1989, Mr Cran said that the brothers, now aged 21, drew £693,000 for their personal spending. They spent £83,000 on limousines, £117,000 on personal security, £164,000 on clothes, and £83,000 on travel.

Mr Cran said the brothers' record company, CBS, appeared to be "over a million pounds unrecovered". If the

court did not continue a High Court order requiring Bros to pay £63,000 into a special account as security until Style 3's case against them comes to court, that money too was likely to be spent by the brothers.

He said Bros and 3 Style had made an agreement that the company should receive 20 per cent commission on the stars' gross earnings. The management agreement was terminated by the brothers, who alleged breach of contract. The company, while not attempting to enforce the management terms of the agreement, was still claiming its 20 per cent until the date the contract should have expired, late next year.

The main hearing of the dispute is expected to take place in June or July. Earlier this month, a deputy High Court judge made an interim order that the brothers should pay a lump sum of £63,000 and then £6,000 a month into an account to be held pending the full hearing. The £63,000

was due to be paid by the end of this month.

Mr Cran said: "Nobody is in control of these artists. If they keep this money, they will simply spend it on cars and everything they have spent it on to this date, and we will never see it."

Lords Justices Russell and Legatt granted Mr George Newman QC, counsel for Bros, a suspension of the High Court order pending an appeal on April 9.

A Newman read a sworn statement by Mr Matt Goss saying their income had consisted of £30,000 a month from CBS until July this year.

They were due to be paid a £70,000 lump sum by CBS, but at least half of this would be used to pay part of almost £60,000 already owed by the brothers to American Express.

After July, Bros would have no other income until their third album was completed at the end of this year. The brothers did not have anything like £63,000 that could be paid by April 1.

Economic policy is working, Tories told

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

AN ASSURANCE that Britain's economic prospects will have improved considerably by this time next year was given to the Conservative Central Council in Cheltenham yesterday.

Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government must not flinch from tough political decisions.

Although high interest rates brought their difficulties, the problems were nothing compared with those associated with higher inflation.

The Government's policy was working and once excess demands had been removed, the economy would resume its upward trend with a lower inflation rate.

"By this time next year, the prospects will look distinctly brighter. People will look back then and welcome our firmness now."

Mr Lamont said that interest rates policy would work, although it had taken longer than expected to slow down the economy.

Reducing inflation was a matter of political will. "We are determined to reduce it. We can do it. We did it before and we will do it again," he said.

Inflation was the central

problem: "We must get inflation down because everything else, investment, employment, a healthy and competitive industry, depends upon it."

"Inflation is a social evil, it hits the poor and those on fixed incomes. It disrupts industrial relations, undermines company balance sheets, distorts investment and cheats savers."

He gave a warning against the siren voices that argued that the country could live with inflation. Acceptance of modest inflation today became acceptance of higher inflation tomorrow.

"That is why we have a tight fiscal policy and a tight monetary policy which we are determined to sustain."

"The truth is our economy needs to slow down after the extraordinary growth of recent years. That pause began last year and will continue this year. But it is surely not too much to ask the British people or British business to accept a pause for breath after such rapid and unprecedented growth."

The Government was not relying solely on interest rates to cure inflation. Britain had one of the tightest fiscal positions in the world; public spending was firmly



Mr Michael Heseltine, with Sir John Stokes on his left, fields press questions about his leadership ambitions

under control, and Britain had a surplus of taxes over spending greater than any country except Japan.

Mr Lamont said there was no better ground on which to fight Labour at the next election than on inflation.

"They have no policy to tackle it and their public statements on it are a fraud. It is for our country's sake that we cannot afford to fail."

"If we do not have the resolution and the nerve to see our policies through, they will

believe that privatization, enterprise and incentive have all failed. We would be deserting the principles which have served this country well for a decade and have gone on to be increasingly accepted throughout the world."

Earlier there was strong backing for the Government's attempts to bear down on inflation by the use of high interest rates.

Commuter chaos in the Conservative heartlands in the South-east was jeopardizing

the party's prospects at the next general election.

Congested roads, overcrowded trains and soaring rail fares were increasingly becoming an electoral issue, representatives said during the transport debate.

Mrs Jo Hawkes, of Ashford, Kent, said the country had returned all Conservative MPs at the last general election, but efforts to repeat that achievement were being undermined by the lack of government interest in the

railways. "Many of our supporters are commuters."

Railways were in a deplorable condition, timetables were slower than 18 years ago and trains were dirtier than at any time in the past decade.

Mr Mike Hughes, of Arundel, a British Rail, demanded the reinstatement of government subsidies for the railways, more investment in rolling stock, improved safety measures, and extra manpower for British Transport Police.

Tebbit comes out fighting for mantle of the right

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

MICHAEL HESELTINE has Europe, Norman Tebbit has Hong Kong. The publication next week of the Bill giving British passports to 225,000 citizens of the colony will ensure that the leadership bid that Mr Tebbit launched on Thursday with 20 words to the Press Association gathers pace through the summer.

Mr Tebbit has already put himself at the head of 80 Tory MPs, mostly from the right but including some centrists and left wingers, committed to halting the legislation and so dealing another blow to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's waning authority.

It is from that faction that the former chairman of the Conservative Party will hope to draw initial support as he marshals his troops for the leadership election that may never come. On Hong Kong, Mr Tebbit's lieutenants are Mr John Buncher, the centre right former junior minister, and Mr Bowen Wells, the moderate Tory MP for Hertford and Stortford.

Neither is thought to be a natural Tebbit supporter in a contest precipitated by Mrs Thatcher's premature retirement, but the creation of the group gives some idea of Mr Tebbit's likely tactics as he advances himself as a right-wing standard bearer in a putative contest with Mr Heseltine. He will seek to build his support, estimated yesterday at no more than 25-30 backbenchers compared with about 100-150 for Mr Heseltine, by identifying himself with an agenda that offers attractions to the right.

Conservative MPs yesterday responded with varying degrees of horror, dismay and delight to Mr Tebbit's confirmation of what has been widely known at Westminster since the 1987 general election and his resignation from the Cabinet — that he has not foregone his ambitions.

As one well-connected right-winger put it: "He's been always been the vehicle for Mr Tebbit's leadership ambitions; a point recognized by his opponents, who include some also on the libertarian right, whose determination to support Mrs Thatcher over the issue is fuelled by the belief that defeat will finish him."

Insiders predicted that he will be looking for other controversial issues, possibly by acting as a rallying point for diehard anti-market opposition to a prime ministerial

U-turn later in the year on British membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

Deep controversy over the issue could undermine further Mrs Thatcher's position and so enhance the still remote possibility that she will be forced to stand down. There are few at Westminster, especially among those with more than a passing acquaintance with the pre-eminent street-fighter in British politics, who accept Mr Tebbit's protestations of loyalty to Mrs Thatcher.

They believe that while he remains a friend ideologically, he has never forgiven her for the way she treated him as Tory chairman and campaign mastermind during the election. On top of that, the ambition of a man who cleared his way to the top from the humblest of beginnings should never be underestimated.

As one senior backbencher put it: "He wants to be leader and he does not care who he kills to get it. This is more anti-Thatcher than it is anti-Heseltine."

Some conspiracy theorists even thought that Mr Tebbit's intervention was calculated to help Mr Heseltine. But the overall reaction from the kind of quarters where Mr Tebbit needs to draw support would have given him little encouragement. Leading members of the 80-strong 92 Group of Tory backbenchers, Mrs Thatcher's self-styled praetorian guard, many of whom are now toying with a Heseltine or Kenneth Baker candidacy if their champion were to retire, were privately critical of Mr Tebbit. They predicted that he would be no more than a "spoiling candidate", siphoning off votes from Mr Heseltine.

Mr Teddy Taylor, another right winger and anti-market, and Sir Marcus Fox, a vice-chairman of the 1922 executive, both robustly defended Mr Tebbit's intervention, insisting it was designed to stop Mr Heseltine from unseating the Prime Minister.

In the final analysis, Mr Tebbit would be the only candidate offering the party a continuation of the radicalism that has marked the past decade plus a ferocious contempt for backsliding on social policy. His eventual degree of support would be a barometer of how many of his colleagues still believe that can remain a winning formula.

Timing of leadership stake appeals party

By Andrew Pierce

REACTION to the conference floor to Mr Norman Tebbit's leadership declaration was one of despair. Representatives from the left and right of the party were appalled by the timing of the announcement.

Labour's record lead in the opinion polls, the community charge and high interest rates had already cast a bad light over the proceedings at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Any lingering hopes that the conference would revive the battered spirits of the tank and file were snuffed out by the latest bout of speculation over Mrs Thatcher's position as leader of the party.

In spite of attempts by the Tory high command to play down Mr Tebbit's announcement, the spectre of Mr

Heseltine loomed large over the conference.

There was sharp criticism during the debate on the economy of Conservative MPs who were plotting to oust Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Simon Pearce, of Newham North West, said: "The party is the subject of a cold-blooded attempt to break its nerve and sap its confidence in the Prime Minister."

Mr David Evans, from Cardiff Central, urged the party to maintain strong leadership in the run-up to the next General Election. With the changes in Europe strong leadership was more important than at any time since the Second World War. He said: "It is the Prime Minister who provides us and the nation with that strong leadership."

Prince plans to transform a town

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

PRINCETOWN, the bleak moorland town known best for its proximity to Dartmoor prison, is to undergo a transformation by courtesy of its landlord, the Prince of Wales.

The Duchy of Cornwall is to unveil this weekend its proposals to bring more homes, jobs and a better shopping centre to the town.

It will mount an exhibition in the Duchy Hotel and hold a forum to hear the views of local people on what it plans. Talks have already been held with local planners and the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

It is hoped that the scheme will help to increase the population from 700 to 1,000.

Many of the houses in the town have been sold to their tenants.

The Duchy, however, owns nearly 50 houses which have stood empty for several years, some of them derelict after being abandoned as prison officers' homes.

They will be refurbished or rebuilt, and in addition the Duchy is to make land available for new private sector housing.

The Prince has taken a close interest in the town, visiting both the prison and the local public house *The Prince of Wales*, and his advisers have promised that houses will be offered at "affordable prices".

Under the proposals for the transformation there will be more workshops and car parks, and also mentioned is the possibility of turning the present prison officers' mess into a visitors' centre.

The overall scheme will take five years to complete, and it is hoped to start work this year.

Labour lists Tory candidates for capping

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

THE Labour Party yesterday published a list of about 20 councils controlled by Conservatives which it said were candidates to have their community charge capped.

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow Environment Secretary, issued the list in the wake of reports that the list of charge-capped local authorities that the Government is expected to issue next week will include few if any under Conservative control.

Mr David Hunt, the local government minister, said on BBC Radio 4 that no final decision had been taken.

He said: "We do not look at the political complexion of a council. We look under the terms of the legislation at whether or not we have the power to exercise the charge capping

responsibilities given to us by Parliament in order to move in and protect people."

Mr Gould said however that the Government was "trying to reopen an argument it has already lost".

He said that all the evidence suggested that there was very little difference between the behaviour of Labour and Conservative councils in setting the community charge.

Although Labour totally rejected capping, which would lead to "deep cuts in services", Mr Gould said that the Government had to be seen to act impartially. He would await "with interest" to see how many of the 20 Conservative councils he named would be included on the Government's list.

Mr Gould's list included Mid Devon, Dartford, Leominster, Plymouth, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Epsom, Reigate and Banstead, South Oxfordshire, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Northampton, Kingston, Berkshire, Plymouth, Kensington and Chelsea, Suffolk, Solihull, Brentwood, Torbay, Charnwood and Northbury.

On his first visit to the city, Mr Kinnoch told poll tax protesters that voters had seen through the Government's trick. "They've seen through the trick that says the tax is their council's fault and they know the tax is profoundly unfair because it takes no account of ability to pay."

Mr Kinnoch was aiming to boost Labour's general election chances in the Worcester constituency after the unexpected resignation of the incumbent, Mr Peter Walker, who is Secretary of State for Wales.

Aftermath of Hillsborough still disrupting the police

By Peter Davenport

THE aftermath of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster is continuing to affect the operational effectiveness of the police force which bore the brunt of the blame for the tragedy, its Chief Constable said yesterday.

Mr Peter Wright said that the legal consequences would go on well into the 1990s.

Mr Wright, who is to retire at the end of next month, made his comments in the foreword to his last annual report in charge of the South Yorkshire Police.

In his report published yesterday, he said that the "shadow" of Hillsborough, in which 95 Liverpool supporters lost their lives in the crush on the Leppings Lane terraces, had in a public sense, but obscured the normal work of the force.

"Furthermore, the financial cost of Hillsborough has had a marked effect on resources and consequently upon our effectiveness during the year."

He said that at the beginning of the last financial year his force had a budget cut of 2 per cent, a reduction of nearly £2 million in its funds. It led to cuts in the vehicle fleet, overtime, training and building maintenance.

Later in the year, because of the decision to commit £1

million from the operational contingency fund to pay for the costs of the Hillsborough inquiry, a stop was put on police and civilian recruitment and a further £300,000 cut from the vehicle replacement programme.

Mr Wright said it was against that background that the results of 1989 had to be judged. Recorded crime in the force area rose by 6.06 per cent, while the detection rate fell from 46.46 per cent to 43.44 per cent.

Mr Wright said that the on-going effects of Hillsborough would continue "for some considerable time to come".

The West Midlands police has yet to submit its report to the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether there should be criminal prosecutions as a result of the tragedy, and that meant that the inquests on those who died were unlikely to be concluded before the end of this year.

Mr Peter Wright, Force still troubled by disaster

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Kidney men 'tried only to save lives'

By John Young

IF more people carried kidney donor cards the three doctors found to have acquiesced or taken part in the sale of kidneys for transplant operations would not be in the position they were, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Arledge was addressing the council's professional conduct committee on behalf of Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist. The committee found a number of allegations proven against Dr Crockett, Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, who are charged with serious professional misconduct.

Mr Arledge said that what Dr Crockett did sprang from the dreadful and tragic condition of the patients waiting to receive kidneys.

"Dr Crockett erred, he tried because he wanted to save the life of a patient in a

chronic condition," he said. It would be quite wrong to end his professional life.

The records would show that these doctors, faced with an appalling dilemma in the summer of 1988, were trying to save lives.

Mr John Kirkham, a surgeon who knew Dr Crockett through working at the Humana Wellington Hospital in St Johns Wood, north London, told the committee he had an excellent reputation as a clinician. He frequently visited patients in intensive care, and dealt with them carefully and competently.

Mr John Goldring, QC, for Mr Joyce, the donor surgeon, said: "His [Mr Joyce's] integrity has not been touched by these proceedings. He was not involved for money, he told no lies, he did not deceive any fellow doctor." While Mr Joyce would not for one moment wish to evade his responsibility, the committee might conclude that he was the least culpable of the three doctors.

The hearing continues today.

Consumer Bill pruned to avoid rejection

A 23-clause Bill to provide consumers with better guarantees and to reform the law on sale and supply of goods was cut down by 15 clauses by its Labour sponsor to save it from being "talked out" in the House of Commons yesterday.

The remnant, which will provide only an improved definition of merchantable quality, was then given an unopposed third reading.

The Consumer Guarantees Bill was subjected to long procedural debate about the delay in carrying a money resolution authorizing the spending of public money on one of the clauses.

At the end of the day's debate, Mr Martin Jones (Cardiff South West, Lab), sponsor of the Bill, moved amendments to delete from the Bill the clauses strengthening the law on guarantees, saying that he would rather the House accepted the shortened Bill than have the whole Bill lost.

Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Consumer Affairs, said that he had never been happy with the Bill because of its serious flaws and difficulties. He would look to see what properly could be done.

Discussion of the final stages of the Bill was delayed from the beginning of the day's sitting by

procedural argument about whether the House should deal with one clause of the Bill in committee of the House. The clause had not been passed in the standing committee because of an error in not passing a money resolution earlier.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) said that there was no precedent for a private Member's Bill to be recommended to a committee of the whole House because of such a mistake.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that the money resolution had been passed on Thursday night. There was no procedural obligation on the House to re-commit the Bill to the standing committee, but a committee of the whole House could regularize the situation now.

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C) described the situation as "monstrous". He objected to the clause on enforcement being dealt with retrospectively now. The Bill was defective.

The sponsor of the Bill, Mr Martin Jones, must take responsibility for the error.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, accused the Conservatives of an orchestrated attempt to sabotage the Bill and causing it to be "monstrous". He said that the rights of producers were protected by

vested interests".

Mr David Wilshire (Spelthorne, C) said that was nonsense. It was possible to be concerned about procedural matters without being against the objectives of the Bill.

It was dangerous to play fast and loose with the procedures of a sovereign Parliament just because the intentions of a Bill were laudable, Mr Roger Gale (Thanet North, C), a supporter of the Bill, said that it was seeking to give consumer guarantees which were worth the paper they were written on, to see that they were written clearly and meant something.

The Commons should not

send out a message that it wished to kill this Bill or that it was unconcerned about the need for better consumer protection through proper guarantees.

Mr Forth said that nobody in the standing committee had realized that a money resolution was required.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) said that Mr Forth was making clear that the Government did not want the Bill. "He has organized this lot [Conservative MPs]. They are substituting instead of making progress."

Mr Forth said that he had done his best to discharge his responsibilities honourably.

"Towards the end of last week, we established beyond reasonable doubt that a money resolution was required for the Bill. I was then told that this had to be done, by convention, by the Government and in Government time."

"I have never been happy with this Bill. I always thought that it contained serious flaws and difficulties. My advice has always been that it was probably irredeemable and irrecoverable."

The Government still wanted to update the Sale of Goods Act and he therefore supported part of the Bill which would do that. He would look at the whole area of guarantees to see what properly could be done.

The motion to recommend the

clause was carried by 85 votes to nil.

After further debate, the motion to hold the committee stage on the clause immediately was carried by 77 votes to nil.

On the report stage, Mr Jones moved one of a series of amendments to delete all the consumer guarantee aspects.

He said he did this with regret but thought it preferable to seeing MPs "talk out" his proposals.

The amendments were agreed to and the report stage concluded.

On third reading, Mr Forth said that he could recommend the Bill as it now stood.

He had always made it clear that he had reservations about those parts of the Bill which had now been taken out because they were unworkable.

Mr Nigel Griffiths, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that it was sad that the minister had damaged consumer affairs by not accepting the Bill in its entirety. A Labour government would seek to introduce provisions embracing the whole Bill.

Mr Jones said that he had hoped that people who suffered from having bought shoddy goods would have better protection, with provision for replacement or refunds.

The Bill was read the third time without a division.

Research on child cancer

MOVES to find out more about the "appalling affliction" of neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer, were announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health.

In an adjournment debate, he promised a search through the death certificates of children who had died from cancer to discover how many had suffered from the condition.

He said that the Medical Research Council was considering, in consultation with his department, funding a large-scale screening trial using a technique based on testing of babies' urine.

The number of children diagnosed with neuroblastoma in Great Britain had recently averaged about 73, approximately one in every 10,000 live births, and the number who died, about 44 a year.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said that statistics were children who died from this most dangerous of cancers was unknown to the Government.

There should be prompt action to prevent avoidable deaths and public funding of a screening programme.

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Lebbit come out fighting for mantle of the right

Credibility problem dogs Stevens inquiry



Mr Stevens: Failed to charge any police officers

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE investigation into allegations of collusion between "loyalist" terrorists and the security forces in Northern Ireland has been dogged by a credibility problem that still lingers at the inquiry's conclusion.

It surprised no-one that, even before Mr John Stevens began the inquiry, his efforts were already being written off — not only by Sinn Féin — as part of a cover-up or government-sponsored "whitewash" to appease critics in Dublin.

Mr Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, repeatedly made clear, as did Mr Hugh Annesley, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, that his inquiry would not only be rigorous but would follow leads wherever they were found and press them to their conclusion, whatever the consequences.

Six months later, the most conspicuous feature of the investigation is that Mr Stevens has failed to press charges against a single police officer in spite of recent court cases and other public disclosures that have made it clear that leaked photomontages of republican terrorist suspects originated from police stations.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Mr Stevens either took a formal decision or just drifted away from an investigation of the RUC, mindful perhaps of the explosive consequences. Taken together, police officers to redress that balance cannot be ruled out.

Sources close to the team strenuously deny that there has been any attempt to avoid investigating RUC officers. They say policemen have been questioned but claim the police are more skilful at covering their tracks than, for example,

members of the Ulster Defence Regiment. Mr Stevens' detectives have no doubt, however, that RUC officers have been involved in unauthorized leaks.

One interpretation in some military circles is that Mr Stevens never stood a chance when it came to investigating the RUC. From the outset his team worked from police premises, inevitably relied on police advice and security, and worked in pairs with RUC officers.

The focus thus immediately shifted from the RUC to the UDR and "loyalist" terrorist groups such as the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Very early Mr Stevens ordered the arrest of 28 UDR members in dawn raids in Belfast and Co Down in an operation which, it was said at the time, was unnecessary and insensitive and immediately led to suspicions in some military circles

that the police were encouraging Mr Stevens as part of a "vendetta" against the UDR. Senior government sources have said the UDR is serving, whether by accident or design, as a whipping boy for the security forces, conveniently deflecting criticism from the RUC.

The Stevens investigation has nevertheless accumulated an impressive record of individuals charged, even though a significant proportion of the offences do not involve collusion and activity and no-one has been charged with the key offence of handing material on, as opposed to being in receipt of it.

The 58 people charged or reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions include 24 for collecting, recording or possessing information likely to be of use to terrorists; 10 for firearms offences; three for intimidation; and one for offences associated with the unlawful possession of an

RUC uniform. The Stevens team has charged 10 UDR members (though it arrested more than 30), 26 members of the UDA and its paramilitary wing the Ulster Freedom Fighters (50 arrested), and six UVF members. This has been achieved in the face of concerted opposition from the UDA, which repeatedly attempted to embarrass Mr Stevens, and from within the UDR and sections of the RUC, which consistently undermined statements by the chief constable that Mr Stevens enjoyed the fullest co-operation of his force.

Mr Stevens also had to contend with a fire at his original headquarters at Carrickfergus outside Belfast on January 10 that badly damaged the control room, destroying computer terminals and files. It is thought a number of files.

Leading article, page 11

School wins opt-out battle after defying council stand

By David Tytler, Education Editor

BEECHEN CLIFF, the Bath school that educated the athlete Sir Roger Bannister, yesterday given clearance to opt out of local authority control.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday that the school could do so under its new head, Mr Roy Ludlow, when the summer term begins on April 23.

Mr MacGregor had been ordered by the High Court last month to reconsider both the proposal for the school to opt out and the county council reorganization scheme that would have turned Bechen Cliff into a sixth-form college.

The High Court blocked the original decision to allow the school to opt out of the control of Avon County Council.

Mr MacGregor's decision will come as a relief to the parents.

Mr Michael Cross, chairman of governors, said: "I am relieved that the uncertainty has been resolved. We shall now want to go on to make a superb grant-maintained school at Bechen Cliff which will be a beacon of excellence

in the South-west." Avon County Council said it would be seeking advice from the council solicitor to decide its next move.

The news may not be greeted with wholehearted enthusiasm by the staff.

Mr Michael Oura, the acting head who has been running the school for the past two years, said: "The staff have been in a very difficult position. They did not know who their boss would be and feared that they might be the victims of revenge if they spoke out."

Mr Oura took over the school when Mr Donald Stephens, the head, died in a climbing accident on a school trip to the French Alps in the summer of 1988.

He is proud of the school, which this year produced its best A level results and has had continuing success on the sports field: two boys have signed on with Somerset County Cricket Club.

Most of the 50 staff at the school will stay. Others may be looking for alternative posts or may decide to take early retirement. The only member of staff to say that she

will resign is Mrs Annie Marjoram, head of special needs at the school and president of Bath Labour Party.

Mr Cross said she spoke for a minority of the staff: "There is no exodus now and there will not be one."

Mrs Marjoram said: "I am the one who took the public stand to say that under no circumstances would I teach in an opt-out school. There are lots of people here who are trapped and are deeply uneasy, but do not feel they can take as strong a line initially."

Mr Dai Morris, who has been an English teacher at Bechen Cliff for 20 years, said: "The majority of the staff were unhappy about opting out, but accept that it is better than closure. They do not like it but they will accept it. The majority will stay to make it work."

Mr Oura is certain that the 840 boys at the school have not been affected. He said: "They have been very little affected and have accepted it as a game that adults play."

Mrs Josie Baskerville, president of the Parents' Association and who has four boys at

Bechen Cliff, voted against opting out in the ballot of the 66 per cent of parents who voted, 55.4 per cent voted in favour.

"We just wanted it resolved so that we can get on," Mrs Baskerville said.

College lecturers have failed to vote clearly on whether or not to accept an 8.5 per cent pay offer recommended by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and their union leaders are now to seek further negotiations.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education said yesterday that the ballot held by the Electoral Reform Society was "virtually 50-50".

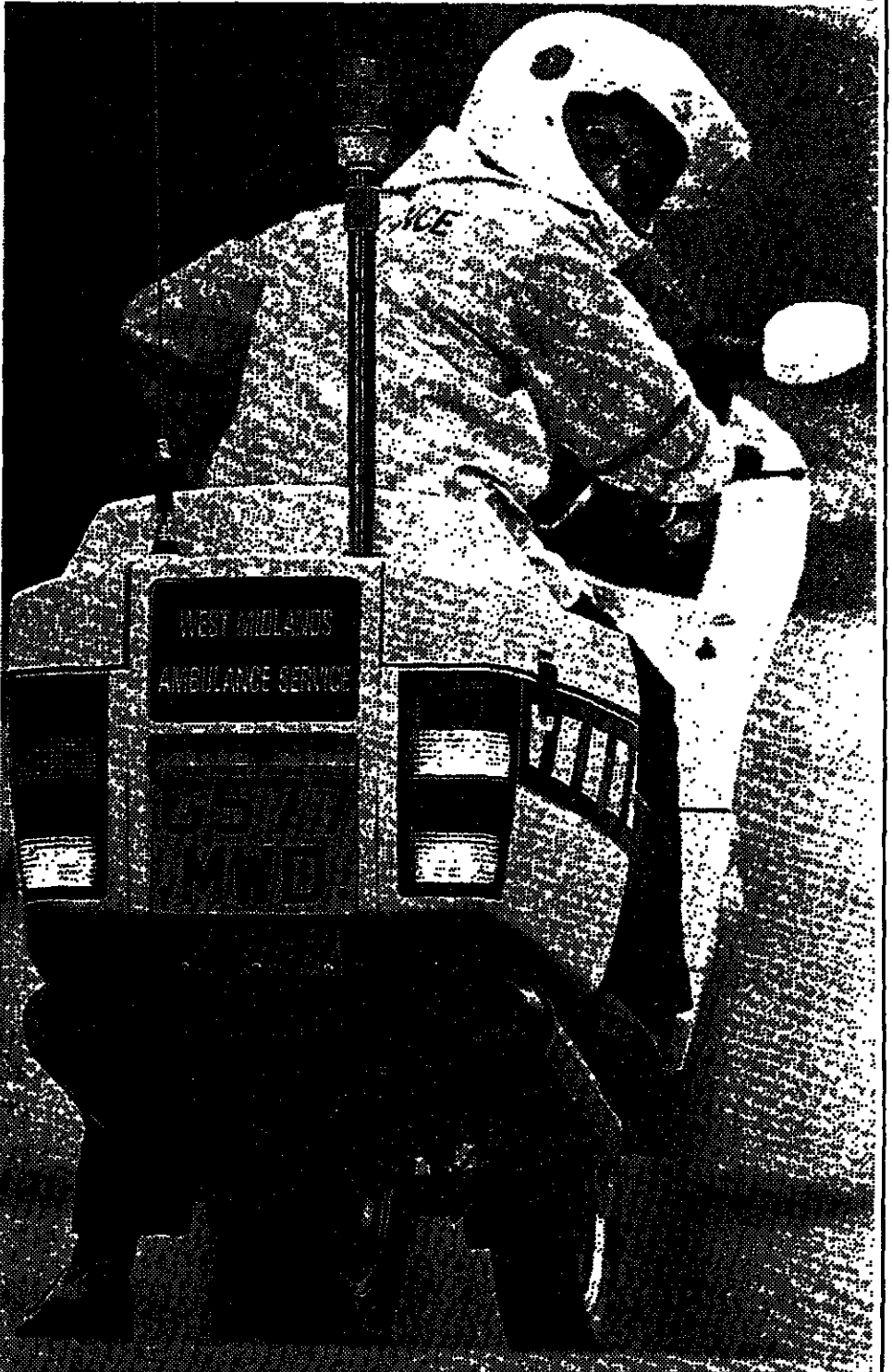
A spokesman said the union had asked for a recount, but added: "We think the result will remain much the same, so the national executive are to return to Acas on Monday to reopen negotiations."

The 8.5 per cent pay offer was backdated from April last year, with a further 0.5 per cent from last September.

The year-long dispute at the colleges included a seven-month examination boycott.

Paramedics man motorcycles

JEREMY WILLIAMS



LEADING Ambulanceman Raymond Legg setting off on a test ride yesterday as Britain's first paramedic motorcycle ambulancemen prepare to take to the roads of the West Midlands. The pioneering scheme is designed to overcome traffic congestion and to get rapid medical help to victims of accidents and other emergencies (Craig Seton writes).

The West Midlands Ambulance Service has taken delivery of two 588cc Norton Commander motorcycles equipped with sirens and flashing blue lights and fitted with panniers to carry life-saving apparatus. Three qualified paramedic ambulancemen who are also experienced motorcyclists have volunteered for the six-month pilot project. They have completed a training course with West Midlands police.

The two rapid intervention motorcycles and their riders will be on stand-by five days a week between 7am and midnight. One is to be based in Solihull and the other in the Black Country. Mr Stephen Evans, the West Midlands Ambulance Service's public relations manager, said yesterday: "If the pilot scheme is successful, we hope to get more motorcycles." The motorcycles will carry a cardiac monitor, defibrillator, airway management equipment, fluids for setting up drips and basic first aid.

Detectives investigate oil rig sabotage

Detectives are investigating a sabotage attempt on Occidental's Claymore oil platform that could have led to extensive damage and a risk to lives (Kerry Gill writes).

A large bolt was found in one of the gas compressor units on the installation, which has a complement of 350 men. Occidental condemned the action as a "stupid and irresponsible act".

Claymore is the sister installation of Piper Alpha, which blew up in a series of explosions in July 1988 with the loss of 167 lives.

It was during reconstruction work on the Claymore rig that the metal bolt was found on Wednesday night.

Final steps

Police traced the last known steps of Mrs Stephanie Whitaker, aged 38, in an effort to find clues to her disappearance after she left her home for a prayer meeting in Newport, Gwent, more than a week ago.

Brent eviction

Miss Diana Collymore, aged 43, a Labour councillor in Brent, north London, is to be evicted by her own town hall bailiffs for failing to pay £6,000 in rent arrears, after a judge rejected her appeal.

Bulldozer dig

Archaeologists are using bulldozers in a last-minute attempt to uncover remaining artefacts from a Roman fort before the site at Exeter, Devon, becomes into a car park.

Absent prisoner

Police are investigating the disappearance of Dennis Wilkinson, aged 27, a remand prisoner at Pentonville, north London, who was reported missing from an 11.45am roll-call yesterday.

Diver verdict

Joseph Fox, aged 41, a sub-aqua diver of Keighley, West Yorkshire, died after swallowing sea water on a diving trip at Oban, a Bradford inquest was told yesterday.

Soccer death

Kieron Ferris, aged 29, a Cardiff football supporter, died on a boat train after a drinking binge on a trip to watch Wales play in Dublin.

Itchy business

Doctors are carrying out tests on postal sorting office workers at Ringswood, Hampshire, after dozens of them complained of itches and rashes.

Rape arrest

A man has been arrested and is being questioned by police in connection with the rape of a girl aged seven at Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Woman missing

Police are searching for Mrs Sylvia Cory, aged 69, who is believed to have been in "a confused state" when she disappeared on Thursday evening while walking her dog at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Cannon-balls scupper Stevenson novel

By Kerry Gill

THE existence of two cannon-balls fired at the Hebridean island of Islay by a marauding American privateer has provided the basis for a new ending to Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *St Ives*.

Stevenson's unfinished novel will be published next week with the final chapters completely rewritten by Mrs Jenni Calder, one of his biographers, and aided by island folklore.

Stevenson died before completing the adventures of St Ives, a French prisoner during

the Napoleonic Wars who escaped from Edinburgh Castle. The book recounts St Ives' exploits as he makes his way back to France. The book was completed by the novelist Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, who published in 1897. However, according to Mrs Calder, Sir Arthur got the last six chapters wrong.

When Stevenson died in Samoa in 1894 the scene was set for St Ives' escape from Edinburgh Castle using a balloon. He left an intriguing, unwritten chapter, "The True Blooded Yankee", which was

ignored by Sir Arthur who refused to believe American privateers plied British waters during the war with America between 1812 and 1814.

Research shows that the True Blooded Yankee did exist and Stevenson must have heard of its raid on Bowmore, Islay, in 1813, when it looted two cannon-balls at the hapless villagers; the cannon-balls were used for shot-put contests until earlier this century. Mrs Calder is certain Stevenson planned to use the incident as the basis of St Ives' escape. In

made his way to the English Channel in the balloon, but was rescued. He was then saved by an American ship and eventually returned to marry a girl he met in Edinburgh Castle.

Mrs Calder uses research by the historian Mr Robert Storey, who believes Stevenson learnt of the American raid from his grandfather. She is convinced St Ives was to have flown in the balloon to Islay where he was rescued by the True Blooded Yankee.

Stevenson's version, St Ives made his way to the English Channel in the balloon, but was rescued. He was then saved by an American ship and eventually returned to marry a girl he met in Edinburgh Castle.

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Barristers advertise counsel at up to £1,000 a day

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A SET of barristers has broken new ground by publishing the daily charging rates of its members in the chambers' brochure.

The chambers, at Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, is one of a number to have produced brochures under the Bar's new freedom to advertise. But it is thought to be the only one to publish a full list of what counsel charge.

Advertising restrictions and other rules about how barristers practise and where they set up have been swept away under a new Bar code of conduct, which comes into force today.

The guideline charging rates for a full day's paperwork (six chargeable hours) or for a day's refresher in a straight-forward case range from £750 to £1,000 for Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, with 16 years in practice, to £150 to £250 for

the newest qualified member of chambers.

One member, Miss Linden Ite (five years in practice, £350-£500 daily charging rate), said: "We felt this was information that solicitors and the lay client were entitled to have."

"It certainly makes their lives easier, rather than ringing up the clerk on an ad hoc basis every time."

Clients had been pleasantly surprised, she said. "There is a mistaken belief that barristers charge huge fees. But they find the fees compare favourably with solicitors because, of course, we do not have the overheads that they do."

Mr Jeremy Woodruff, first junior clerk in the chambers, confirmed the response from solicitors was good. "It gives them some idea when they are speaking to

Guideline charging rates (as at April 1989, under review)

	Years in practice	£
Nicholas Stewart QC	16	750-1,000
Benjamin Levy	28	500-750
Anthony Mann	13	500-750
David Ite	27	400-750
Timothy Jennings	25	500-850
Victor Joffe	11	500-600
John Brookes	36	400-600
David Halpern	9	400-600
Caroline Hutton	8	350-600
Linden Ite	5	350-500
Leslie Michaelson	2	300-450
Peter Arden	3	300-400
Geoffrey Zelin	2	300-400
Jacqueline Baker	2	200-400
James Barker	July '88	175-275
Anthony de Garr Robinson	Sept '88	150-250

The guideline rates represent the normal ranges of charge for a full day's paperwork (six chargeable hours) or a day's refresher in a case with no special factors such as unusual urgency or complexity. Rates are subject to negotiation in the usual way.

clients what they are going to be looking at." Quite often solicitors were asked by clients what counsel's fees would be and it did not look good if they

had to say they did not know, he said. Although the bulk of the Bar's new liberal code of conduct comes in today, advertising restrictions were

lifted last summer. Since then, chambers brochures have burgeoned. Some are more imaginative than others. A recent brochure competition found many do not give vital information.

Barristers' dates of birth, for instance, which solicitors find useful, are usually excluded, but his or her son of Court is often mentioned, although the judges of the competition said that was of no interest whatever to solicitors or lay clients.

Mr David Latham, QC, chairman of the Bar working party on the new code, said that some members had appreciated the change and were going out to "market themselves quite aggressively with strong brochures".

But others, he said, had not yet appreciated what was happening, or had no wish to "promote" themselves. "The large soggy mass is still slightly uneasy."

The new code also allows

barristers freedom to set up in practice on their own, wherever they wish, provided they meet certain requirements on administrative arrangements and insurance.

A number were already doing this, and even working from home, Mr Latham said. The next move will be a new Bar Guide, in which solicitors or members of the public can look up barristers and read about their work and possibly what cases they have undertaken.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "A 'beauty contest' was shortly to be held for publishers to pitch for this work."

"Although the traditional view of the Bar had been against publicizing cases, people were now prepared to think again about it as long as the client agreed."

"The wind of change is blowing," Mr Henderson said.

New debt collection system frees courts

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

CREDITORS will be encouraged to make direct contact with their debtors under radical changes, effective from tomorrow, in the way county courts handle debt collection.

Under the present system, which has been in effect since the establishment of the county courts 140 years ago, debtors make payments into court, known as "suitsor's cash", which are then accounted for and paid to creditors on a weekly basis.

That will be abolished and instead most payments in county court disputes will be made direct to creditors.

The streamlined procedures will relieve the county courts of much administrative work and release some 300 staff for other duties.

Under the new system it is estimated that courts will

handle less than one third of the payments dealt with at present. They will deal only with those payments considered to be most straightforward, such as payment under warrants or attachment of earnings orders.

Creditors will be encouraged to have direct contact with debtors after judgment; will receive payment quickly; will be better informed about the state of case and may receive more payments as a result of fewer restrictions on methods of payment.

Debtors will receive clear advice, with forms written in plain English; and have wider choice of how and where they pay.

The procedures bring England and Wales into line with Scotland.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Bush sends letter to Gorbachov on crisis in Vilnius

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

A PERSONAL letter from President Bush to President Gorbachov was handed to the Kremlin yesterday as Western statesmen urged caution and conciliation in Lithuania.

Neither side would reveal what Mr Bush said in the message, handed to Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, by the US Charge d'Affaires.

But, coming a week before Mr Shevardnadze's visit to Washington for preparatory talks on the June summit, it almost certainly dealt with the Lithuanian crisis.

Mr Bush has refrained from strong public comment on the Soviet actions in Lithuania, but diplomats here suggest he may be taking a tougher line in private to warn President Gorbachov of the severe repercussions on US-Soviet relations of full-scale Soviet intervention in Lithuania.

The situation in Lithuania was discussed yesterday by Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany in talks in London. "We agreed it is absolutely vital that it be resolved by dialogue and discussion", Mrs Thatcher said.

Lithuania was also on the agenda of talks which Mr Shevardnadze had yesterday with Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, making a one-day visit to Moscow. Mr Dumas said before leaving Paris that he would urge Moscow to open negotiations with Vilnius, while emphasizing that the republic's right to sovereignty was indisputable.

Despite Soviet reports of continuing tension and comments clearly intended to keep up the pressure on President Vytautas Landsbergis, there

was a noticeable easing of the atmosphere in Moscow yesterday.

However, the KGB defiantly announced here that it would continue its work in Lithuania despite a reported threat by the republic's parliament to punish those co-operating with the agency. The KGB gave a warning that it would punish anyone who tried to stop it fulfilling its functions in Lithuania.

And the Deputy Chief of the Soviet General Staff told Tass that preparations for the spring military call-up were being thwarted in Lithuania. He said it was impossible to set up conscription commissions in some districts. Tass reported "an atmosphere of hysteria and intimidation" in the republic, and said groups of 100 to 500 volunteers, including army deserters, were being set up in units on the pretext of organizing resistance to Soviet troops.

Moscow was also confronted with growing unrest in other republics. *Pravda* yesterday denounced the increasing activity of nationalist forces in the Ukraine, where the Rukh popular front scored an impressive win in recent local and republican elections.

The paper said Rukh aimed to lead the Ukraine out of the Soviet Union with a programme for total independence. It said Rukh "incisively shows not goodwill and accord but its intolerance and the organizational disarray of sound forces" — a reference presumably to the poor morale and collapsing authority of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

Meanwhile, violence has flared up again in Armenia

and Azerbaijan. In the past few days there has been a series of armed clashes along the border between the two republics and one person has been killed.

Interior Ministry troops have been strengthened in the region, and Soviet soldiers have arrested militants with grenades, rifles and shotguns. Azerbaijani deputies have sent a letter to Mr Gorbachov asking him to step up security and declare a state of emergency in border areas.

A similar appeal to Mr Gorbachov was sent by pro-Moscow deputies in Moldova, who complained yesterday that 28 Russian-speaking deputies were beaten up on Wednesday. They accused the Moldavian Popular Front of planning to disrupt the Moldavian parliament.

In Latvia, the Communist Party held a conference to discuss its congress scheduled for April 14, at which the independent party will debate changing its name and dropping the word "communist".

And in Estonia, the parliament, meeting on the second day of its session, came close to declaring a return to pre-war independence. A majority of deputies supported resolutions and motions condemning the Soviet occupation of Estonia and calling for a transition period on the road to independence.

According to a Tass report, the deputies formed six political groupings: the Popular Front being the largest with 43 of the 105 seats, and the others including republicans, intellectuals, proponents of equal rights, agrarians and a group calling for the restoration of the old pre-war republic.

Lawyers split as Moscow sacks top legal official

From Anatol Leiven, Vilnius

THE Lithuanian state procurator, Mr Arturas Palauskas, was dismissed yesterday by Moscow and replaced with an officer from the legal division of the armed forces.

But backed by the Lithuanian Government, most of the procurator staff have announced that they will continue to obey the chief appointed by the Lithuanian Parliament, and a split in the department is imminent.

"There is one Procurator in Lithuania, and Mr Palauskas is his chief," Lithuanian deputy president Kazimieras Motieka said. "If Moscow wants to create a separate one, let them." Sitting in his office, Mr Palauskas said: "I am the procurator of Lithuania, and I will stay here unless soldiers come to remove me."

Mr Palauskas told me that the Soviet First Deputy General Procurator, Mr Aleksei Vassiliev, told him he had been dismissed for "violating the constitution of the Soviet Union and breaking links with his superiors in Moscow."

Tass and other Soviet agencies have been reporting "increased crime" in Lithuania, including attacks on Soviet soldiers, and failure of the Lithuanian procurator to stop them. Moscow's appointee is

Colonel Antanas Petraskas, until yesterday Chief Military Procurator in the Riga garrison. He is by origin a Lithuanian.

Mr Palauskas was appointed only last week by the Lithuanian Parliament to replace Mr Vidutis Barauskas, who in turn was appointed last year by Moscow to replace the previous Procurator, Mr Ludvikas Sabutis, a leading Sajudis member and now secretary to the Præsidium.

The Procurator has much greater powers than the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in England. Rooted in the Roman Law of the old Russian empire, these powers are analogous to those of "examining magistrate" in France and include preparing all cases for trial and supervising the work of the police.

The scenes in the Procurator building in Vilnius's Gogol Street yesterday were full of drama and irony — with sober legal officials in a state of high emotion. At a meeting of staff soon after Mr Palauskas was dismissed, officials burst into applause as a Sajudis deputy, Mr Egidijus Bickauskas, himself a lawyer, called upon them to continue to obey the orders of Mr Palauskas as the legally appointed Procurator. Only

one row, composed of Soviet loyalists and officials sent from Moscow, sat silent, stone-faced. When Mr Bickauskas declared that "since I can't ask Mr Vassiliev to leave, I will leave myself," all but 14 of about 110 officials present followed him from the room.

Answering a barrage of hostile questions, Mr Vassiliev carried off his role of legal bureaucrat turned pro-consul with some humour, but Colonel Petraskas, with a slight grimace on his face, sweated under the television lights as officials demanded if he recognised Lithuanian law, and if he did not feel ashamed to have come to his country as the representative of a foreign power.

Mr Vassiliev told the meeting that "the time will come when all these matters will be discussed, and laws and the constitution may be changed; but for the moment the constitution of the USSR is in force and this says that republican procurators are appointed by the General Procurator of the USSR. If you are lawyers, you must understand that the General Procurator had no choice but to make this decision."

Another move expected imminently by Lithuanian Communist Party leaders is a military occupation of the Communist-owned printing house in Vilnius which, like other Communist Party property, is in dispute between the Independent Party and the Soviet Party in Lithuania.

Lithuanian MP flies home disappointed

By Michael Kripe, Diplomatic Correspondent

A LITHUANIAN envoy left London yesterday critical of what she called Britain's continuing prevarication over recognizing the republic's declaration of independence.

"We believe it would be a great help for us and at the same time for Mr Gorbachov if the British Government were to declare its attitude more firmly," said Mrs Laima Kadrickienė, a Lithuanian MP.

She flew to Britain on Thursday to deliver to Mrs Thatcher a letter from Mr Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president. The let-

ter stopped short of asking for an open declaration of recognition of Lithuanian independence, calling instead on the people of Britain "to continue to reaffirm and support the right of the people of Lithuania to freedom, dignity and self-determination."

Although Mrs Thatcher urged President Gorbachov to exercise restraint over Lithuania, the Government has not formally recognized the self-proclaimed state, even though it has maintained the accreditation of a Lithuanian charge d'affaires since 1938.

It will be the first such "fireside chat" attended by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and could prove to be his baptism of fire. If, as expected, he reaffirms the Government's distaste for all current models of EMU except the Government's own — a call to make all currencies legal tender in the EC and let them compete for supremacy, a move which has been widely rejected — he will find few allies at the meeting in Ashford Castle, County Mayo.

Few if any formal decisions will be taken, but some ministers may use the meeting to form a chorus in favour of laying the foundations for EMU, and even of drafting much of it, before the inter-governmental conference on EMU begins in December. They could then proceed immediately afterwards to

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West Germany's Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, near Parliament after his London press conference

Rise in desertion alarms Kremlin

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

CRIME in the Soviet Army grew by 14.5 per cent in 1989 compared with the previous year and there have been an increasing number of desertions, the chief military prosecutor has said.

Lieutenant-General Aleksei Katusev told a press conference that the situation showed no signs of improving in the first few months of this year. Desertions were especially notable among privates and sergeants from the Baltic and Transcaucasian republics. At present more than 1,000 servicemen from those regions were absent without leave.

He said those that were caught would be returned to their garrisons to face trial and he called for more vigorous efforts to prosecute those encouraging young men to desert.

The press conference, on Thursday, was clearly timed to coincide with the Soviet Army action against Lithuanian deserters.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, a newspaper aimed particularly at young people of conscription age yesterday published a lengthy and critical account of the movement to encourage Lithuanian deserters.

A soldier is considered to have deserted if he is absent without leave for more than a week. He is normally punished by three years' obligatory service in punishment battalions, where discipline is especially harsh.

But local commanders sometimes simply confine those recaptured to military prisons for a shorter time. Conscientious objection, however, is not recognized in the Soviet Union and is usually punished by a prison sentence.

Berlin apology clears way for coalition pact

From Anne McElvey, East Berlin

EAST Germany's leading parties look set to form a coalition of compromises next week after the first stage of talks ended yesterday in broad agreement but no new government.

Herr Hans Wilhelm Ebeling, the leader of the German Social Union, the most right-wing of the three parties in the conservative Alliance for Germany, apologized publicly for the aggressive campaign conducted by his party against the Social Democrats.

"Many things were said and done in the heat of the election which I did not approve of," he said. He added that the Union was now "stretching out a hand" to the Social Democrats to join them in government.

The party campaigned vigorously against the SPD calling it "the legacy of the SED (communist) party".

Herr Markus Meckel, the deputy leader of the SPD and a former vicar, was apparently stunned by the apology and could only say that it was "always good when people changed for the better."

Meanwhile, Herr Ibrahim Böhm, the Social Democrats' leader who gave up his office

last week after allegations that he had worked as a Stasi informer, said yesterday that he would resume the party leadership on Monday.

Yesterday he was allowed to examine Stasi files kept on him in the company of representatives responsible for the dissolution of the organization. They said afterwards that there was no evidence that he had worked for the Ministry of State Security while being an active dissident.

The Social Democrats have always insisted that they would not enter a coalition involving with the German Social Union, and the strident Herr Ebeling, supported by his sister party, the Bavarian Christian Socialists, has been their personal bugbear. But the apology now opens the way for a compromise between the adversaries.

The SPD will continue talks with the ruling Christian Democrats tomorrow before deciding whether they could enter negotiations on the division of ministerial posts that would include the German Social Union.

Under popular pressure, all five parties involved are now back-pedalling furiously on

the promises and anathemas of an overheated election campaign to make a workable government possible.

A sign outside the SPD headquarters says apologetically: "Democracy takes longer than dictatorship".

The Christian Democrats' spokesman, Herr Helmut Luck, said yesterday that his party was prepared to accept the country's existing constitution as valid, a key condition for the participation of the Social Democrats in government.

Without the recognition of the validity of the 1968 Constitution Parliament would be unable to enact sweeping changes on an absolute majority, effectively disenfranchising the Social Democrats from all important decisions.

While the SPD leadership is anxious to gain as much as possible in the shaping of the country's future, ordinary party members are far from happy with the new tone of compromise. A spokesman said yesterday that headquarters had been deluged by letters and telephone calls from enraged members opposed to a coalition.

Third mass grave uncovered

Sachsenhausen

East Germany

EAST German soldiers unearthed a mass grave yesterday said to contain Germans interned by Stalin's security police at a former Nazi concentration camp after the Second World War.

The discovery, in woods 18 miles north of Berlin, was the third in a week as East Germany's new authorities relentlessly come to grips with horrors long hushed up by the Communists.

Reporters watched as troops dug up more than 10 skeletons which officials identified as Germans held at the nearby Sachsenhausen camp after it was seized by Soviet security forces at the end of the war.

Rusted identification plates were found around the ankle bones of skeletons. Sachsenhausen camp survivors have said plates were attached to the deceased before burial.

Empty bullet cartridges were found among the skeletons but their origin was unclear, said Mr Wolfgang Titz, the official in charge of

the monument to victims of Sachsenhausen during the Nazi era. Some cartridges carried markings dating from the war and others appeared to have been made in the mid-1960s.

A local resident said this week she witnessed Soviet troops at Sachsenhausen mow down German prisoners with machine-guns.

Western diplomats say 65,000 Germans rounded up by Soviet security forces perished in camps in the Soviet-occupied zone.

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German right moves East

From Ian Murray, Bonn

WEST Germany's radical right-wing Republican Party announced from its headquarters in Bonn yesterday that it had formed a new branch at Götting in East Germany, symbolically sited on the Neisse river, part of the border with Poland.

The Republican initiative points to a new phase in the struggle by ethnic Germans from the areas now under Polish control to win compensation if a unified Germany irrevocably accepts the Oder-Neisse line as the legal border.

According to the Republicans, the branch has 200 members and is being formed with the Federation of Expellees, which represents ethnic Germans from the territories east of the Oder-Neisse rivers.

Although the Republicans are considered fascist, and therefore illegal in East Germany, they seek to avoid being banned through their link with the expellees.

The declared purpose of the branch is to act as a rallying point for Silesia, most of which is now within the borders which Poland insists must be guaranteed before German unity is allowed. It is said to be the first of a series of regional branches to be set up there protecting the interests of all Silesians.

The expellees say they will use every legal means to prevent "the uncompensated surrender of the homes of millions of East Germans and a third of Germany".

Last Monday a court in Stuttgart awarded a woman, aged 59, from Silesia DM 102 million (£37 million) for the loss of Daimler shares after she was expelled from Silesia. Thousands of other expellees are preparing similar law suits, which could cost the Federal Government billions.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who agreed only reluctantly to prepare a treaty guaranteeing the present border, said last weekend that when unity came his countrymen would have to face "a bitter hour" in renouncing the territories east of the Oder-Neisse. He said he understood people's bitterness because it would mean giving up at least a quarter of what had been German territory.

Ceausescu 'persecuted brother'

Bucharest

NICOLAE Ceausescu's younger brother, Lieutenant-General Nicolae Andrută Ceausescu, claimed yesterday that he had had to endure years of persecution after he discovered Elena, the executed former dictator's future wife, naked with a German soldier during the Second World War. "It's one thing to be persecuted as a stranger, and something else again to be persecuted by your own brother and sister-in-law," he told the newspaper *Adevărul* in the prison where he awaits trial for alleged crimes during last December's revolution.

General Ceausescu, former head of the Securitate secret police training school, said he occasionally visited the then Elena Ceausescu while his brother was in prison under the Nazis. "One day," he said, "I found her and her sister-in-law, Adele, naked with two Germans. She didn't like that too much... But it didn't seem to bother her until she married my brother. Then I noticed a coldness." (Reuters)

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Major faces baptism of EC fire

From Peter Gullford, Brussels

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers, with the governors of the EC's 12 central banks, retreat to a secluded castle in the West of Ireland today for what could be a most unrelaxing first attempt to lay out the contents of the EC's planned economic and monetary union.

It will be the first such "fireside chat" attended by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and could prove to be his baptism of fire. If, as expected, he reaffirms the Government's distaste for all current models of EMU except the Government's own — a call to make all currencies legal tender in the EC and let them compete for supremacy, a move which has been widely rejected — he will find few allies at the meeting in Ashford Castle, County Mayo.

Few if any formal decisions will be taken, but some ministers may use the meeting to form a chorus in favour of laying the foundations for EMU, and even of drafting much of it, before the inter-governmental conference on EMU begins in December. They could then proceed immediately afterwards to

wards full political union. This would severely test the strength of UK opposition.

Mr Major may also be told, at least by the European Commission and probably by several ministers as well, that Britain must join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System possibly by the middle of next year. Failure to do so will jeopardize the first stage of EMU, involving closer currency alignment and greater co-operation between the central banks. There is even speculation in Brussels that the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Robin Leigh-Pemberton, has deliberately distanced himself from the Government in advance of today's talks.

The chief task at Ashford Castle will be to reach consensus after sifting through a baffling array of reports and opinions which diverge on the details of EMU but which agree on most of the key principles, notably the need for a single European currency, the ECU.

Central to the talks will be the European Commission's widely leaked paper calling for



Herr Pohl: Fears an increase in inflation

a single currency. The document lists the benefits of the ECU, which Commissioners believe could be introduced as of 1996, saying it would save the Community's money-changing population between £11 billion and £15 billion a year. However, the Commission paper proposes only vague measures to curb government spending.

The central bank governors will go to County Mayo armed with a separate interim report produced by their aides, together with officials from the

national treasuries, which calls for stronger treaty provisions binding governments to strict spending limits. Serious disagreement could arise over how far to tighten the belt on public spending.

Strong support for tight budget discipline will come today from Herr Karl-Otto Pohl, head of the West German Bundesbank, which fears profligate spending by EC governments in a future currency union could fuel inflation and weaken the might of the Deutschmark. Britain is distinctly averse to any transfer of monetary sovereignty to Europe.

Irish government sources claim there is "broad agreement to proceed on the basis of the Commission report". British diplomats dismiss both documents, saying they amount to lofty statements on the final goal of EMU without concentrating on detail.

Herr Theo Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, will also brief his colleagues on his Government's increasingly complicated plans for a single German currency and its impact on the EC, an issue which British officials see as infinitely more crucial even than full political union.

Hungary offered a bridging loan

From Peter Gullford, Brussels

THE European Commission yesterday agreed to hand over the first slice of the Community's £635 million bridging loan designed to help Hungary cut its huge foreign debt and follow through plans for rigorous market reform without prompting the collapse of its economy.

Brussels is clearly using the loan to display its faith that Hungary's economic and political authorities, whom it views as the pioneers of reform in Eastern Europe, will stand by their promises to change the country along Western lines.

"This loan is a mark of our confidence in the will of Hungary's political and economic leaders to achieve political reform and economic recovery," the Commission said in a statement yesterday.

Coming so soon after the Hungarian elections, the loan is an implicit recognition that political reforms — a key condition for long-term aid for the country — are now on a secure footing. But the Commission has a distinct lack of

faith in some of Hungary's neighbours, notably Romania, and intends to use the offer of EC support as a carrot to keep the whole of Eastern Europe on the reforming path in its role as broker of world aid to the region.

The EC's five-year loan, scheme, which had to await the agreement of a broader economic readjustment programme between Hungary and the International Monetary Fund before being signed, has the express approval of EC heads of government who gave it their initial blessing at the Strasbourg summit last December.

The loan is a response to the crippling decline of Hungary's balance of payments last year, which caused a severe slowdown in its economic recovery programme.

The Hungarian Government formally asked the EC last November for the loan as a vital measure to cushion its reform programme, and the first £255 million will be made available to Hungary in the next few days.

Kremlin keep mo in Easter

Call alar

Gorbachov he aging glass

Kremlin wants to keep more tanks in Eastern Europe

By Michael Evans in London and Ian Murray in Bonn

MOSCOW has told Nato's conventional arms control negotiators in Vienna that it wants to increase the number of tanks it can keep in Eastern Europe and the western part of the Soviet Union from 12,000 to at least 14,000, according to diplomatic sources.

The latest stumbling block at the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks has arisen because of Soviet concern over the uncertain position of East Germany's 3,140 tanks — a mixture of Soviet T-54s, T-55s, T-72s, and stored T-34s.

Soviet negotiators in Vienna are now saying that if East Germany is absorbed into Nato, they will need compensation. What they want is to change the so-called "sufficiency rule" under which no single nation is permitted to have more than 12,000 tanks out of the overall total of 20,000 per alliance in the region from the Atlantic to the Urals.

According to the diplomatic sources, the Russians are saying they must be allowed to have 14,000-15,000 tanks. Apart from losing East Germany as a member of the Warsaw Pact, Moscow is also worried about Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The Soviet argument is that neither of these "allies" can be relied on to keep up their tank strengths, as laid down under a CFE treaty, because of their wish to reduce their forces.

They fear this could mean that the idea of the Soviet Union is restricted to 12,000 tanks, the Warsaw Pact total may not even reach the agreed 20,000 ceiling.

Yesterday it also emerged that the Soviet Union's proposal to include all Nato and Warsaw Pact forces in the CFE talks — not just superpower troops — and to have an

overall ceiling of 700,000-750,000 on each side, is to become a central part of the negotiations on German reunification at the two-plus-four talks. During his visit to Washington next week, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is to ask Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to use his influence within the Nato alliance to gain approval for this idea, according to diplomatic sources in Bonn.

Mr Shevardnadze has sought support for the idea from Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister. During their meeting last week in Namibia, he emphasized that it would be crucial to the question of German reunification and hinted that if a satisfactory and fast disarmament deal could be agreed, then it would help Mr Gorbachov to take a more relaxed line with Lithuania and any other Soviet states seeking greater autonomy.

An essential element of the deal the Soviet Union is seeking is an initial limit of around 300,000 men in the size of the armed forces of a united Germany along with agreement that no Western or German troops — either under Nato or national command — should be deployed between the Elbe and the Oder-Neisse in what is now East German territory.

Soviet public opinion would be unwilling to accept the idea of a new, strong, united Germany, given the fact that the Second World War cost 20 million Russian lives.

According to the sources in Bonn, the West has been given a warning that the Soviet Union will use its seat at the reunification negotiating table to stall German unity unless it

is satisfied that there is no chance that history will repeat itself.

Away from the forum where the two Germanys now discuss unity with the four Second World War victorious allies, separate negotiations are underway between Moscow and Bonn. During his meeting with Herr Genscher, Mr Shevardnadze explained the considerable difficulties Moscow is now facing and sought help in speeding up the disarmament process in a way which would make possible an honourable and orderly Soviet withdrawal from eastern Europe.

As part of this withdrawal, the Kremlin is even asking for West Germany to pay for the construction of barracks in the Soviet Union to house the troops which would be pulled out of East Germany.

West Germany has said already that it will meet East Germany's present obligations to accommodate Soviet troops and Mr Shevardnadze is suggesting that if this money is now spent on building barracks, the Soviet Army would be able to go home within two or three years subject to a comprehensive disarmament agreement in Vienna.

The establishment of a demilitarized buffer zone, agreement on substantial reductions in Nato forces — particularly of the German Army — and a sound treaty on the western Polish frontier would be achievements the Russians could claim proved that they had finally succeeded in resolving the outstanding problems of the Second World War.

Instead of a peace treaty, the idea would be to accept that the 1945 Potsdam agreement had at last been fulfilled.

Party on brink of collapse

From Dassa Trevisan
Belgrade

THE Yugoslav Communist Party was pushed to the brink of final collapse yesterday when the Central Committee failed to secure a simple quorum, with half of its members boycotting the meeting.

More than a dozen Central Committee members walked out during the session complaining that anyone voicing dissenting opinions was being challenged immediately.

The Central Committee meeting was convened on the insistence of the Serbian party's hardline leadership, despite warnings from other constituent republican parties that a session in the absence of the Slovene representatives would be illegal and could lead to the party's disintegration.

The Slovene and the Croatian parties boycotted the session, while 12 Central Committee members from Bosnia and several from Macedonia walked out saying that there was no point in holding a meeting which failed to secure a quorum as only 85 out of a total of 165 members attended.

In January, Slovene delegates walked out of the party congress in protest over the majority's opposition to radical democratic reforms proposed by the Slovene party.

The congress was suspended but, on the insistence of Serbia to resume the congress, the current Central Committee meeting was convened.

A spokesman for the Slovene party, contacted by telephone, said: "The Central Committee meeting is illegal and the best thing they could do is to dissolve themselves."

Call for protest alarms Peking

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

PEKING residents are being urged by pro-democracy activists to demonstrate silently in Tiananmen Square tomorrow, but the authorities — determined to nip unrest in the bud — have ordered everyone to stay away, according to Chinese sources.

It is not clear whether the call to demonstrate has come from activists within China, or from dissident groups operating in exile.

Some Chinese have received letters or faxes calling for Peking residents to gather and walk silently around the square tomorrow in protest against the killings on June 4 last year. Many people in Peking have learned of the planned protest, but most say they are afraid to take part.

The Government, however, is clearly extremely nervous about the calls to gather in the square, and has issued a document which is being read at staff meetings in all work units in the capital. The document warns people that if they go to the square and "something happens", then they will be "responsible for the consequences".

This wording is similar to that used in warnings issued before June 4, when even casual bystanders were mown down, and seems to have convinced most people that it would be safer to stay away.

Tiananmen Square has been open to the public since martial law was lifted in January. Still scarred by damage done with tanks, the square is usually busy on Sunday afternoons with families out for a stroll and old men flying kites.

Police in central Peking have been ordered to be on duty from April 1 onwards

with all leave and even days off cancelled.

An unknown number of soldiers are garrisoned in the extensive compound housing the Museum of Revolutionary History, which is adjacent to Tiananmen Square. They drill in the open every day, and their washing hangs out to dry opposite the Great Hall of the People.

Some Chinese say the order to stay away from Tiananmen Square refers only to the period from April 1 to 5. Others say it refers to the whole, highly sensitive period from the beginning of April to the end of June.

China's festival of remembrance of the dead falls on April 5. In 1976, thousands of people gathered in Tiananmen Square on that day overtly to mourn the death of the Prime Minister, Zhou Enlai, and covertly to protest against the Gang of Four. That demonstration was broken up violently.

The anniversary of the death of Hu Yaobang, the ousted General Secretary of the Communist Party, comes 10 days later, on April 15. His death provoked the anti-government protests led by students in Peking last spring.

But by far the most sensitive anniversary is June 4, the day when the Army shot its way into Peking, killing hundreds and perhaps thousands of peaceful demonstrators.

The authorities are worried on two counts: first that the Communist Party could not survive another onslaught, and that the Army might not be willing to save them a second time; second, that any hint of unrest could mar the Asian Games to be held in Peking in September.

Gorbachov honoured for bringing glasnost to dress

New York. PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday received a special commendation from the influential International Best-Dressed Poll for liberating Soviet men's fashion sense.

He was named for "opening the door to fashion as a means of self-esteem and self-expression to the men of the Eastern bloc nations after 40 years of enforced anonymity", according to a statement from Eleanor Lambert, the fashion publicist who devised the poll 50 years ago.

Another citation, to Empress Michiko of Japan, named her an "international treasure of world fashion, whose exquisite style sense... has been a notable influence since she became crown princess of Japan".

Mr David Dinkins, New York's new Mayor, was com-

mended for "restoring the well-dressed male image to New York politics". The Princess of Wales and King Juan Carlos of Spain were among those named to the poll's permanent Hall of Fame.

Daniel Day-Lewis, the British actor who early this week won the best-actor Oscar, and Paul Newman, the film star, were among a dozen men named to the year's best-dressed list.

Ivana Trump, estranged from her husband, Donald, the American property magnate, and her sister-in-law, Blaine, were both among the dozen best-dressed women.



Mr Gorbachov: A man of mode for the East bloc

Masking a rare talent with owl-like glee



Pablo Picasso posing with an owl mask in this previously unpublished photograph taken by David Douglas Duncan, the photographer, in 1957. Mr Duncan plans to auction four such works, together valued at £687,000, to raise funds for Aids-afflicted children in Romania

De Klerk prepared to crush Natal violence

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa said yesterday that he is prepared to order the use of force to crush the nationwide violence that has claimed more than 200 lives in the past month.

He told the Cape Town Press Club that he intends to address Parliament about the violence on Monday, the same day that Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Zulu leader, and Mr Nelson Mandela are to hold talks over the political war in Natal province that has claimed at least 40 lives in the past week.

Mr de Klerk said the Government would be obliged to use the full weight of its power to restore law and order if elements of both the left and right continued their present course of violence and lawlessness.

It was significant that Mr de Klerk made particular mention of right-wing activity — other South African white leaders have, until now, been reluctant to include right-wing extremists in their denunciations of violence.

He was clearly referring to the situation in Welkom, the Orange Free State gold mining town hit by a tornado two weeks ago, where supporters of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) have clashed with blacks.

He made it clear also that the Government believed that black protest politics and mass demonstrations — which he allowed for the first time last December — were getting out of hand.

He said: "Demonstrators

openly espousing violence or preaching class and racial hatred are playing with fire. Fanning these flames may easily lead to catastrophic inter-group conflagration... If protests and demonstrations become a way of life they interrupt progress based on order and discipline and hard work and result ultimately in unemployment."

Mr de Klerk added: "We say to those who spend so much energy and productive time on protest: You have made your point that you are unhappy about the situation. We accept that. We are not satisfied with it either. Join us in doing something constructive about it. The time for building a new South Africa is now."

Meanwhile, in Boksburg, a town east of Johannesburg that gained international notoriety 18 months ago when its white extremist Conservative Party-dominated council decided to restore petty apartheid, its only Jewish councillor was confronted with a pig's head wrapped in a Star of David flag when he pulled out his chair to sit down at a council meeting on Thursday night.

The incident came after the Supreme Court in Pretoria ruled that the council's decisions to segregate recreational facilities in the town were invalid although the Separate Amenities Act, one of the basic apartheid laws, remains on the statute book.

Mr Issy Kramer said: "I felt very sick. It shows that there is a small group of people in this country which is unable to

face reality and the inevitability of political change." Mr Kramer said a Boksburg Conservative Party councillor had admitted distributing an anti-semitic pamphlet. It recalled a 1937 speech to Parliament by Mr Eric Louw, who became South Africa's first National Party Foreign Minister when it won power in 1948, saying that South Africa had a large Jewish population.

Mr Louw said then: "We owe it to the future generations of South Africa to tackle this problem now before it is too late."

JOHANNESBURG: The Publications Appeals Board yesterday removed its ban on the autobiography of Mr Nelson Mandela and the anti-apartheid film, *A Dry White Season*.

It said Mr Mandela's book, *The Struggle Is My Life*, was now "part of the accepted political rhetoric" in South Africa. The board had banned the book three years ago.

Mr Mandela was released on February 11 after 27 years in prison for his role in launching the bombing and sabotage campaign of the African National Congress. He continues to support the ANC's armed struggle, though it has been largely dormant in the past year.

"As far as the principle of armed violence is concerned, (Mandela's) standpoint is so well known that it is unlikely it will change the outlook of the reader toward political violence," the board said.

Bloodied country, page 10

White firebrand fights for Mugabe

From Jan Raath, Sanyati, Zimbabwe

PRESIDENT Mugabe described his party's candidate for the Makonde West constituency as "the pride of Zanu (PF)" last week.

The candidate has worked himself to a hollow-eyed semblance of his former self to win such an accolade. In the last five weeks he has covered 2,000 miles in his spluttering Datsun pickup to places where no vehicle had dared to venture. He has slept under the stars in brief respites from electioneering, and has probably exchanged the traditional hand-clapping greeting with every voter.

The candidate, as a day passing hundreds of ragged people along the tracks of Sanyati made clear, is the darling of the people who call him "our father", "our saviour", and, on one occasion, "our Gorbachov".

"It's been my first general election, and it's been super," said Mr Sean Hundermark, aged 37, a third-generation white Zimbabwean with the nickname *Kamhiripiri* (Little Red Pepper) from his ginger hair and fiery temper. "Voetsek," he bawled at every lean dog that crossed in front of the famous yellow pickup.

His white South African ancestry and his years as a District Commissioner in the Rhodesian Government's hated Department of Internal Affairs have not hindered his campaign.

Even, perhaps, the reverse. "Blacks (politicians) are no good," said Mr Pardon Mlambo, a young clerk from a nearby cotton ginny. "They steal the money for our dev-

elopment, and they are not interested in us."

"We don't judge the skin," said Miss Grace Muchena, aged 24. "We have voted for him in our interest, because he can develop our area."

Indeed, the comprehensive study of Shona customs that was demanded of all District Commissioners has allowed him to stride a system that moves on sooth-saying omens, totems, extended family connections and downright skulduggery.

Mr Hundermark was brought up 12 miles from the farm of Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister. He went to a white school, a white teachers training college and his job as District Commissioner was a position reserved for whites.

At independence he joined the ruling Zanu (PF) party and rose rapidly until he was chosen by Mr Mugabe as a non-constituency MP in 1987. "I grew up with blacks, they were my friends, I spoke their language," he said. "Even as a kid I vowed I would help people less privileged."

The people of Sanyati have placed an enormous trust in Mr Hundermark. The fla country of baobab, mopan and malala palm trees, its fields regularly raided by elephants, is the epitome of underdevelopment.

"All that people care about here is development," said Mr Johan Molai, a peasant farmer sipping beer outside Gwatidz bottle store.

"I don't care if he is greener, orange, blue, he is on our side."

Florence fire attack on vendors

Florence. Four African street vendors narrowly escaped death in a firebomb attack in Florence, the latest of a spate of racist incidents in the city, police said yesterday. The four men were sleeping in a caravan on the city outskirts on Thursday morning when a large petrol bomb was thrown in. The caravan was destroyed before firemen arrived but the occupants escaped. The attacks against black workers, which began at the end of February when up to 80 men with baseball bats beat three North Africans, have tarnished the city's name. But many Florentines accuse the African street vendors of stealing custom from shops, blocking streets around tourist attractions and being involved in drug peddling. (Reuters)

How not to sell vacuums

Stockholm — Hell hath no fury like a saleswoman scorned. Two vacuum-cleaner saleswomen in Jönköping, southern Sweden, told to "get lost" by a housewife who answered their knock at the door, forcibly vacuumed every carpet while accusing the owner of keeping a dirty house. The struggle to evict them took three hours and ended only after one of the cleaners emptied the contents of a dust bag on a living-room sofa. "It didn't matter what I said. They just wouldn't take no for an answer," Mrs Elisabeth Karlsson said. (Reuters)

Correction

Our Middle East map on Thursday (page 12) omitted the demarcation line between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank territories.

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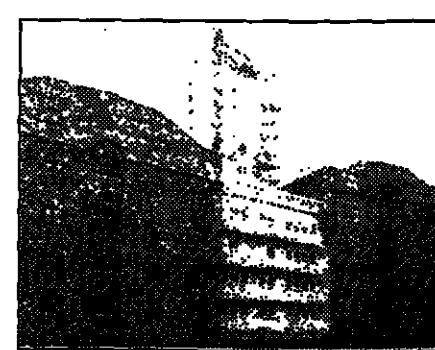
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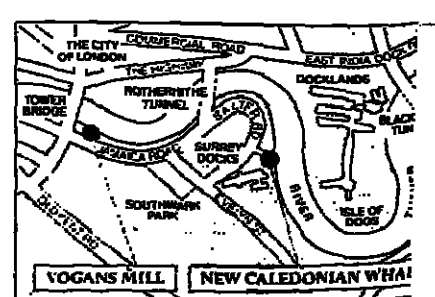
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Superb river views from New Caledonian Wharf, Odessa Street, London SE16



Shock treatment for Brazil's economy earns Collor 'fascist' label

From Charles Bremner
Rio de Janeiro

DRIVERS approaching Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana beach can read some striking graffiti on the wall of a supermarket: "Collor = Hitler", it proclaims.

The target of the slur, the pugnacious President Collor, aged 40, has just drawn a similar slap from *Folha de São Paulo*, one of the country's most influential newspapers which, in a vitriolic attack, declared him to be Brazil's answer to Mussolini and denounced him for instigating "a climate of state terrorism".

Few leaders anywhere can have stirred such rapid antipathy within two weeks of taking office. The fascist comparisons, however, come mainly from one sector — shop-owners, bankers and soon-to-be unemployed civil servants, all stung by the spectacular austerity programme that the President imposed within hours of taking office on March 15.

But the cries of woe have served only to stiffen the resolve of the President, an upper-class populist who won over his country by presenting himself as a blend

of Indiana Jones, conquistador, saviour and yuppie. "We are not retreating," he said last Tuesday after he was forced to withdraw two emergency decrees which enabled the police to round up and imprison about 30 businessmen accused of "economic crimes".

The suspension of the decrees was hailed as something of a victory by beleaguered businessmen. Crowds had jeered as bank managers in several towns were led away in chains.

"The new law is a violence," Senator Marcio Tomaz Bastos, the former head of the Brazilian Bar Association, grumbled. "If you kill someone you can respond to the charge at liberty. But if you raise the price of a beer, you can be jailed for months without trial."

The jailing decrees had proved remarkably popular among the "barefoot and stirless" championed by the President. One survey showed that 94 per cent of the country favoured the automatic two-to-five year prison sentences they inflicted on merchants who imposed illegal price rises. Senator Collor has promised to have them reinstated as

law when he submits his whole package to Parliament next month.

According to the opinion polls this week, more than 80 per cent of Brazil's 150 million people support the austerity measures, which include an 18-month freeze on most bank accounts, wage and price controls, mass sackings in state-owned enterprises and the unleashing of police investigators on businesses and banks throughout the country. Only 5 per cent opposed them.

If anyone had any doubts that the President meant business when he promised to "slay with a single shot the tiger of hyperinflation" — which was at an annual 2,700 per cent in February — they have now lost them. No Brazilian has gone untouched by the chaos that is only just subsiding. Prices on the two main stock markets have slumped by more than a third, and an estimated 50,000 people have lost their jobs.

The President vowed to hit the "elite" classes and to avoid hurting the poor, who make up most of the population, but everyone has been forced to adapt to life without money. With cruzeiros, the

new currency devised by the Collor team to replace the cruzeiro, still in extremely short supply, life has become a desperate hunt to make ends meet.

In boutiques in Rio and São Paulo, they took to selling clothes by the pound weight. Some shops are offering barter arrangements. Food shops have been almost deserted.

Pawnshops are doing a roaring trade in wedding rings and other prized possessions. Miners in the Amazon, hit by a plunge in gold prices, have been exchanging gold for food. And at Manaus, in the heart of the Amazon, the crisis has forced the cancellation of the long-awaited reopening of the legendary opera house, where Plácido Domingo was to have opened yesterday in *Carmen*. The financial backers who restored the theatre to life after 83 years simply cannot pay their bills.

Tourists, whose numbers were already dwindling because of Brazil's crime wave, have been quickly leaving the country as the currency shortage demolishes the dollar exchange rate, bringing Tokyo-style prices. Most economists

agree, however, that Senator Collor and Senadora Zelia Cardoso de Mello, his young Economy Minister, had little choice but to impose what amounts to the most drastic financial shock applied in any state since the economic rebuilding of West Germany after the Second World War.

Neighbouring Argentina provided a salutary lesson in the dangers of weaker measures. There, President Menem is floundering amid continuing inflation and incipient recession after failing to carry through a milder shock programme which was also aimed at wrenching the country into the global free market.

Senator Collor's biggest challenge will be in sufficiently fine tuning the money supply without triggering full-scale recession, analysts say. Much will depend on winning back the confidence of the business community.

Senator Collor likes to remind his countrymen that they are playing for extremely high stakes. Failure could lead to a loss of international confidence that could relegate Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor, to the ranks of the

destitute. Failure would also deliver a heavy blow to hopes around Latin America that the continent can be brought into the modern economic age by charismatic free-market leaders such as Senator Collor, Senator Menem and Senator Mario Varguessa, the novelist expected to win Peru's presidency next month.

Peru has already suffered big disappointment at the hands of President García, another young, confident man whose radical policies have accelerated the country's slide into economic chaos.

Senator Collor is gambling on retaining enough popularity to win over the majority of the Parliament when it comes to examine his package next month. His tiny National Reconstruction Party holds only 26 of the 570 seats but, with elections due in October, legislators will be reluctant to risk unpopularity by opposing a President who, at least for the moment, enjoys the support of his people. However, yesterday, leading politicians indicated they would challenge at least a dozen of the 200 or so decrees imposed by the President.

Syria and Iran boost efforts on hostages

From Christopher Walker, Damascus

DAMASCUS and Tehran have stepped up co-operation in a new initiative to free the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, but are meeting stiff resistance from the kidnappers who want a package deal involving huge ransoms, freedom for Arab prisoners in a variety of countries and guarantees for their future.

President Assad of Syria is expected to pay an official visit to Tehran after Ramadan, which began this week. "Presidents Assad and Khatamian have realized that they have a mutual interest in solving the crisis and so improving their international standing ... The question remains whether, even between them, they have the heart to get the hostages out free," said a European official involved in earlier hostage deals.

The Syrians have tightened their grip around the southern suburbs of Beirut where the majority of the hostages are held. "They have moved in to prevent the hostages being smuggled out of the city ... even the coffins in funeral processions leaving the southern slums are being checked at the smallest road now has Syrian guards on it," the official added. "The latest information is that all 17 of the hostages, including Terry Ainslie, are alive."

As part of the new round of negotiations, the influential other of Iran's President, Mr. Ahmad Hashemi, left Beirut last Tuesday. He had been a week-long secret visit which included meetings with leaders of *Hezbollah* (The Party of God), the umbrella organization covering most of

the groups holding the Western hostages.

After two previous missions inside Lebanon by Mr. Hashemi, the Beirut magazine *Al-Shiraa* said that negotiations for a global hostage deal were in the "second stage" and that Mr. Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, might be the first beneficiary.

The American television network ABC was so convinced that a release was imminent that it had 12 staff members on standby in Damascus for much of March.

According to the European officials, elements of the package now being discussed through intermediaries in a number of different locations includes payments of ransoms of at least \$1 million (£625,000) for each hostage and the release of some 400 Arabs held in jails in southern Lebanon, Israel, Kuwait and a number of European countries.

"There are two distinct levels to the negotiations, that is why they are so tangled and why they may go on for months," one explained. "Iran and Syria are looking for a quick end to an affair which is causing them international damage. But the groups of fanatics who have held these men for years are looking for some very concrete rewards before they agree to give them up."

Iran's main goal is thought to be the unfreezing of Iranian assets in the United States which some estimates put as high as \$10 billion, while Syria is anxious to get off America's blacklist for the supply of high technology items.

Lebanon truce ends

From A Correspondent, west Beirut

MORE than 10 people died in gun battles between Christian forces in the eastern part of Beirut led a precarious 28-day truce yesterday.

even others were reported dead in the fighting, which ended efforts to end the violence by a general Christian assembly, convened on day at the seat of the patriarch in Bkirk, of Beirut.

Police reported that thousands of artillery shells rained

down on seven villages in the Kiseirwan range north-east of Beirut and several neighbourhoods in the capital.

Witnesses and security sources said Lebanese Forces militiamen under Mr. Samir Geagea launched a pre-dawn offensive against General Michel Aoun's troops in the villages of Klaiat and Daraya. Police expected the number of dead and wounded to climb much higher. Both sides claimed victory, blaming each other for starting the assault.

Purge on drink driving

Italian politicians, shocked by a rash of road deaths involving people driving home after all-night revels, are waging a tough campaign to curb drunken driving and limit use of fast cars by young people. The Cabinet is to introduce 20 tests for drunken driving, limit the time night spots can be alcohol, and set up a publicity campaign on the dangers of drinking and driving and earlier closing times for nightclubs.

xton loses

An appeals court ruled Roman Catholic officials the right to fire a sexton who was homosexual overturned an arbitration award of about £2,000 to the man. (AP)

extradition

The Dutch Court ruled that Short, a US Staff sergeant who had been sentenced to six years in prison for his Turkish wife to be extradited to the US because he risks the penalty there for her pressure. (Reuters)

her pressure

A study of Italian workers has found that baldness may be linked to higher blood cholesterol levels and mildly elevated blood pressure, the can Heart Association said here.

Club claim

New York — Relatives and friends of the 87 people who died in the Happy Land Social Club fire in the Bronx have sued the club owners, including the husband of actress Kathleen Turner, for \$510 million (about £300 million) claiming the club sold alcohol to the accused arsonist when he was already drunk.

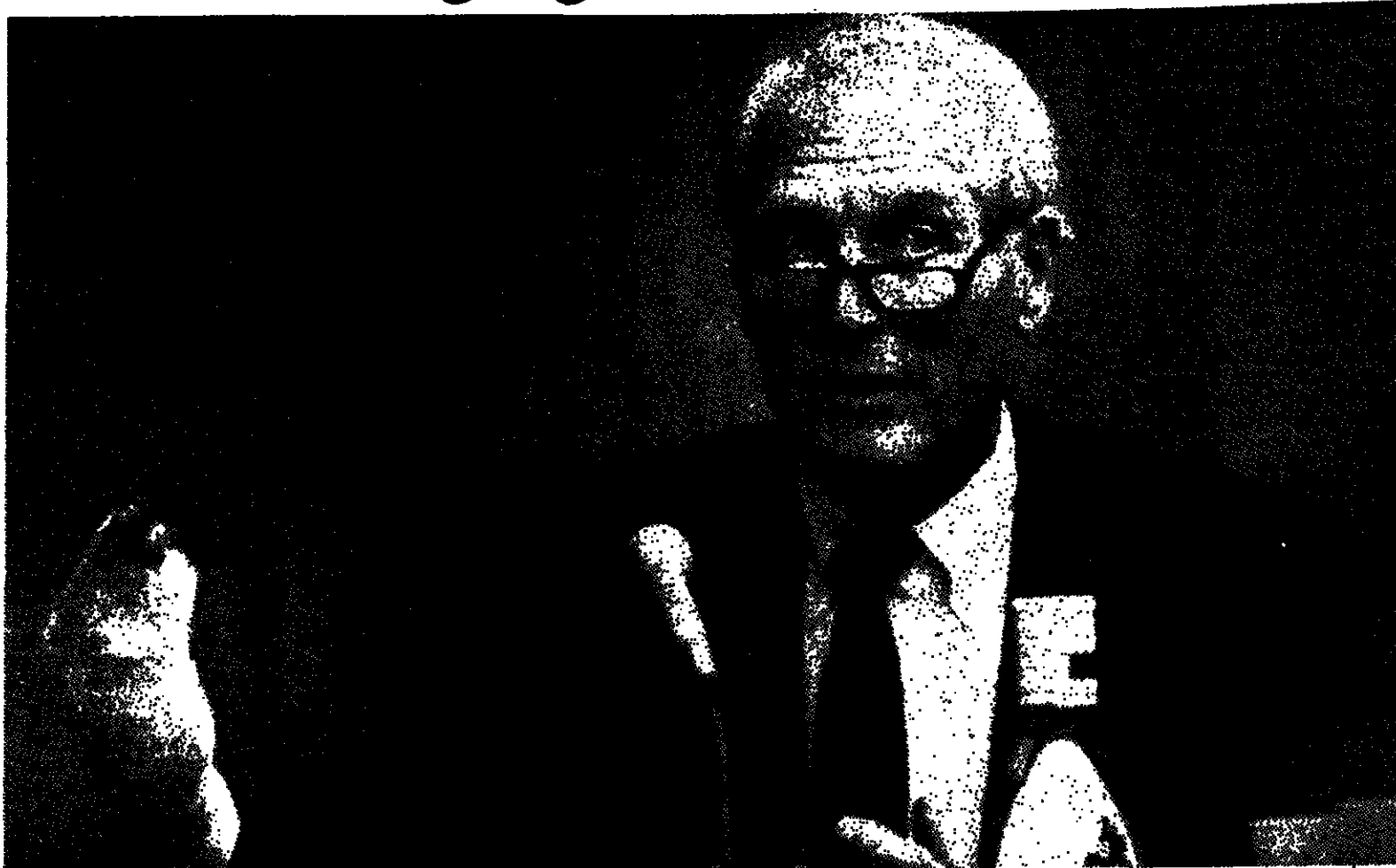
Advice to go

Moscow — The British Embassy in Liberia has advised its citizens in north-eastern Nimba County to leave the area immediately because of fighting between troops and rebels. (AFP)

Van Gogh show

Amsterdam — The Netherlands has already sold 400,000 tickets to an exhibition celebrating the centenary of the death of Vincent Van Gogh. Organizers expect to attract nearly a million and a half people. (Reuters)

Salad dressing saga turns sour for Newman



PAUL Newman, his hand bandaged after some rough play with his dog, Griggs, testifying in Bridgeport, Connecticut in a dispute involving his own brand of salad dressing, displayed on the witness stand. It was the second time the actor has appeared in court to counter claims by a delicatessen owner, Mr. Julius Gold, to have helped him develop "Newman's Own" (Reuters reports). The case was

first tried two years ago, but ended in a mistrial because of a mix-up with evidence. Mr. Gold is suing Mr. Newman and his partner, the author A.E. Hotchner, for a share in profits from the salad dressing on the ground that he played a key role in its marketing. Mr. Newman, apparently weary of the lengthy and sometimes rambling previous testimony, complained the whole thing was taking

"longer than the Academy Awards ceremony". The actor said he never dreamed the enterprise would become so complex. His two food companies, Salad King and Newman's Own, have rung up \$28 million (£17.5 million) in profits, all donated to charity. "It started off as a lark," he said. "I certainly never expected it to become commercial. I envisioned a cottage industry of some kind down in the

basement but I was told the federal Government would frown on the idea of making salad dressing where the horses had been." The actor went on to testify that Mr. Gold was not involved. Mr. Gold, who has claimed that Mr. Newman reneged on a promise to give him a share of the profits, has said he too would donate the money but would like to choose his own charity.

Unesco's director baffled by critics

From Susan MacDonald
Paris

THE controversial director of Unesco, Señor Federico Mayor, finds it "unbelievable" that Britain is not content with his changes to the organization.

With shock waves still reverberating from his abrupt staff changes earlier this month, Señor Mayor said he had done all that Britain and the United States had required him to in terms of a radical trimming of staff and budget.

He insisted that only 18 new posts had been created and that the extra cost would be only £1.25 million, when money saved by freezing 163 posts at headquarters and moving the occupants into the field was taken into account. He accused "emotional" people of deliberately trying to mislead the world about Unesco's achievements since Britain's departure, by issuing "inaccurate" figures.

However, according to an internal Unesco budget office memorandum dated March 7, Señor Mayor's measures had created an estimated 44 new posts in a package of "reforms" which would cost about £3.9 million. These figures were "corrected", reportedly on Señor Mayor's insistence, in another memorandum 24 hours later — prompting the director of staff to ask for an explanation of the lower estimate.

Two of his staff started a hunger strike in protest at the reorganization. Britain, the US and Singapore left Unesco in the mid-1980s, complaining of politicization under Mr. Amadou Mahtar Mbow, the previous Senegalese director-general.

Señor Mayor admitted that he took his staff reorganization decisions without consulting anyone, "as is my prerogative". Contrary to Unesco's rules, the organization's executive board was not consulted before senior appointments were made. Moreover, those on two-year contracts suddenly found they would be renewed only for six months to assess performance.

Le Pen keeps admirers waiting

From Philip Jacobson, Nice

BY accident or design, the stage was set perfectly for another of Jean-Marie Le Pen's triumphant appearances before the faithful at the opening of yesterday's National Front Congress.

With more than 1,000 delegates converging on the Côte d'Azur for the biggest and most important gathering this far right party has ever staged, its leader was again making the sort of headlines he evidently cherishes.

Well publicised battles in court over his allegedly anti-Semitic remarks in public; opinion polls suggesting that the French are increasingly behind the National Front's fervent anti-immigration platform; clear signs of nerves among the big parties about the inroads being made by National Front candidates in recent local elections; all are grist to the mill for this astute, forceful politician.

He operates in the genuine belief that the true depth of his support among the "real" ordinary French is far greater than that indicated by opinion polls — which currently give his party 12.5 per cent of the vote were a general election to be held today.

Several hundred of these *petits gens* (little people) had assembled early yesterday outside the magnificent Acropolis convention centre to greet

their hero. They waited ... and waited, in a wind which grew steadily colder.

A good many were elderly people, by dress and appearance from that section of France which hovers somewhere between the bourgeoisie and the working class: small shopkeepers, garage owners, the *patron* of a successful *tabac*.

As the minutes, half hours and hours ticked by and M Le Pen still did not materialize, a certain impatience set in, especially since by some oversight of organization the crowd was prevented from entering the hall until their leader had arrived. The familiar blue-



M Jean-Marie Le Pen: Undiminished energy

blazed *muscles* who provide security at all National Front gatherings became increasingly uneasy, muttering into their walkie-talkies and glowering at a French TV crew filming the scene.

Two young ladies dressed, approximately and fairly skimpily, as *Marianne* — incarnation of *La France* — were gradually turning blue with boredom of lilies to the man who sometimes seems to be claiming the patriotic heritage of Joan of Arc.

Perhaps M Le Pen felt he could afford a certain complacency. Close reading of recent opinion polls suggests that the National Front may be poised to break through the 10-12 per cent barrier that appears to represent its bedrock support.

Significantly, *Le Figaro's* latest survey found that although some 80 per cent of voters think the party is racist and over 70 per cent consider it poses dangers for democracy, almost a third of the French agree it is right on the burning issue of (coloured) immigration — the drum that M Le Pen beats with undiminished energy.

Talking to people outside the Acropolis yesterday was uncannily like a rerun of conversations before the presidential election in France

two years ago. On that occasion, M Le Pen shocked the political community by winning more than 14 per cent of the vote in the first round.

Since then, it has clearly been a serious mistake to write off National Front voters — as merely a meandering fringe of the electorate. For every cop-hated tough, boiling over with hatred of *les Arabes*, there is an anxious small businessman from the provinces, profoundly concerned about the changes that have overtaken France.

They are not anti-Arab or anti-Semitic, they insist, simply pro-French. "Don't tell me there are not many British people who also worry about the way your own society is affected by black and brown immigration," said one middle-aged man from Alsace, Algerian war medals and parachute wings pinned proudly to his jacket lapel.

Nobody senses more instinctively than M Le Pen that France may be approaching a crossroads in its attitude towards immigration — by which he means people from North Africa. He now believes he has succeeded in placing the National Front before voters as a viable alternative to the hopelessly divided, increasingly impotent parties of the "respectable" right.

Ethiopia secures aid from Israel

From Richard Owen
Jerusalem

AS AN Ethiopian delegation wound up talks in Israel yesterday, diplomats revealed that the Marxist regime of President Mengistu has become "virtually dependent" on Israel for economic and military aid.

The Israelis have been moving advisers into Addis Ababa to fill the vacuum left by departing Soviet officials. The *quid pro quo* for Israel is a steady income from arms supplies, freedom for Ethiopian Jews to emigrate and a guarantee that an independent Arab state of Eritrea will never be established.

Mr. Kesse Kebede, an adviser to President Mengistu, said that with both countries needing free passage through shipping lanes, "Israel and Ethiopia share the geostrategic goal of keeping the Red Sea a non-Arab sea".

Mr. Kebede said Ethiopia would soon open an embassy in Israel. Speaking fluent Hebrew, he added that "hundreds" of *Falashas*, or Ethiopian Jews, had been allowed to emigrate to Israel recently.

A glance at the map shows why Israel is wooing what would appear to be a natural political enemy. Ethiopia recently lost a key part of the strategic Red Sea port of Massawa to the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front. It also faces a war of attrition in Tigré, which adjoins Eritrea.

Israel fears that as Moscow pulls back Addis Ababa will cave in, and a new radical Arab state will appear. There have been persistent reports of big Israeli supplies of advanced weaponry. Some say that Israel has supplied "cluster bombs" in addition to rocket launchers and machine guns.

Separately, in Israel and the occupied territories yesterday isolated clashes with troops led to the death of at least one Palestinian as Arabs protested on "Land Day".

This annual event commemorates the 1976 killing by Israeli police of six Arabs in Israel protesting against the confiscation of their land.

The protest either side of the 1967 "green line" yesterday underlined Israeli Arabs' growing identification with the Palestinian *Intifada*, or uprising, now in its third year. The banned flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization appeared in some Arab villages in Israel, but a huge troop and police presence kept violence to a minimum, and the leaders of Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens were largely successful in their appeal for peaceful protest.

The mayors of Israeli Arab towns said their main concern was not so much the *Intifada*, which aims to establish a Palestinian state, but rather their economic plight. Municipal services have ground to a halt in Arab areas such as Galilee, with Arab councils blaming "discriminatory" underfunding.

Obscenity row rocks 'a city without sin'

From James Bone
New York

THE controversy over the travelling show of homo-erotic photography by the late Robert Mapplethorpe, which raised howls of protest in Washington last summer, has flared up again in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Accusations have been made by the County Sheriff that some of the works are "criminally obscene", and the chief of police has threatened to send in the vice squad when the show opens to seize the offending photographs.

Last summer the photographer's images of homosexual sex and naked children prompted legislation to ban government funding for "obscene" art. Now they are headed for Cincinnati, the headquarters of the National Coalition Against Pornography.

Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Centre plans to open the Mapplethorpe exhibit next Friday.

Art sponsors have withdrawn their support from the gallery, and the chairman of the gallery's board was forced to resign after local businessmen threatened to withdraw their custom from his employer, a local bank.

"The exhibit is wrong," said Mr. George Ballou, a business leader whose property company halted funding for the gallery. "It's not something that should be in this community. I think it should be stopped. I think it's pornographic. I think it's sickening."

In matters of taste, Cincinnati is not a city with which to trifle. As well as being the headquarters of the National Coalition Against Pornography, it has a virtual ban on any pornographic material.

Unlike other American cities, there are, by law, no adult bookstores, X-rated theatre or peep shows, no bars with nude dancers, no escort services and no massage parlours. Residents are forbidden from seeing X-rated

movies at video shops, and cannot buy any but the most soft-core men's magazines at newsagents.

A recent production of the stage play *Equis* was reviewed by the police before being shown to the public, and no cinema in town had the nerve to show the controversial film *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

In an attempt to mollify its critics, the Contemporary Arts Centre has taken a number of unusual steps. Ticket prices for the show will be more than doubled from \$2 (£1.22) to \$5 so that it is self-financing.

Only people over 18 will be admitted to the show, and even then the most explicit of the photographs will be displayed in a separate area.

And in a pre-emptive move, aimed at preventing the police from seizing Mapplethorpe's works, the arts centre has also asked a court to rule on whether the photographs violate obscenity laws. But the anti-pornography campaigners are in no mood for

compromise. They claim the photographs violate community standards — the "obscenity" test laid down by the Supreme Court.

Activists have mounted a vigorous letter-writing campaign, and local radio talk shows and newspaper letter columns have been filled with the controversy.

Although Mapplethorpe's work was denied a showing at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington last summer, it found an alternative space in the city and made its way without incident to liberal-minded towns such as Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, Hartford in Connecticut, and Berkeley, California.

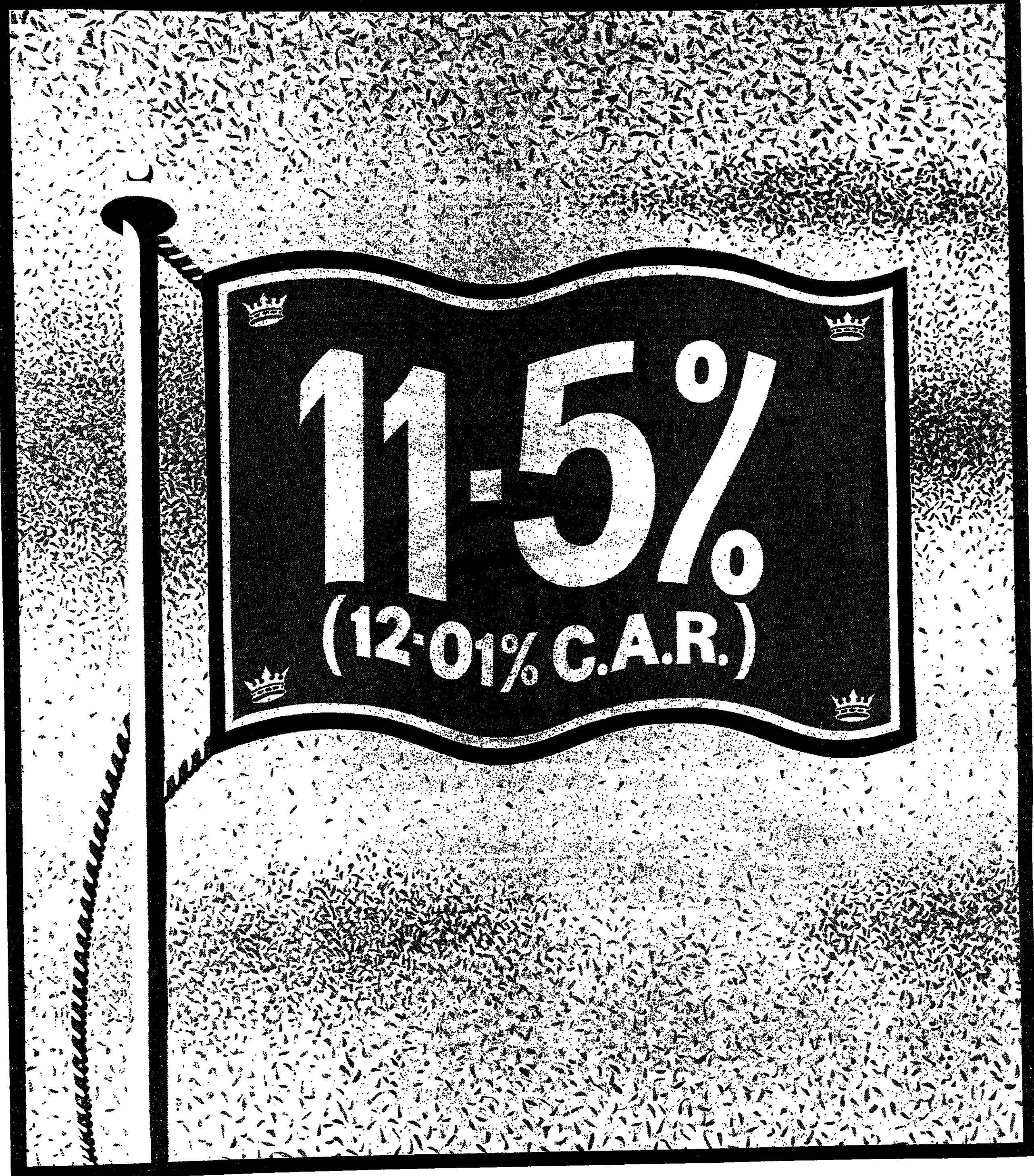
The renewed debate coincides with a fresh political battle in Washington over government funding for the arts, with President Bush proposing abolition of the ban on subsidizing "obscene" art which was passed after the Mapplethorpe controversy broke last summer.

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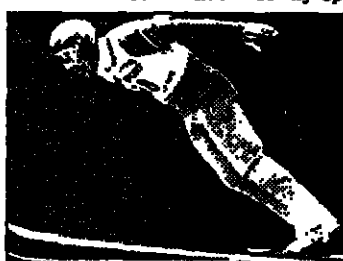
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TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

Rio de Janeiro

Most of the clichés about Rio are true, which makes it a very satisfying city for a visiting writer. In particular, the one about football is true: a stroll along those beaches with such evocative names, Copacabana and Ipanema, demonstrates this. There are lots of football games going on: but where English lads throw down two piles of jumpers and play three-goals-and-in, Brazilians stand in a circle and play beautiful flicks. The ball never touches the ground: round and round the circle, over the top and back again. Every game is a poem of mastery of the ball. Football means different things to different nations: surely only Brazil could have produced a great player called Socrates. As Sir Alf Ramsey remarked after a defeat of England by Brazil: "We have nothing to learn from these people."

Do not believe that exile in Brazil will prevent this column keeping abreast of the latest news from the world of British ski-jumping. It appears that the long reign of the master is over: Eddie Edwards is no longer considered to be British number one by the British Ski-Jumping Federation. He has not competed for a year; he may even have retired. He has recently spoken



Edwards: slippery slope

about trips abroad to find sponsors, but he has shown no up-to-date results. While the federation insists that it wishes to keep on friendly terms with Eddie and to keep the door open for his return, it also says he is in no position to be considered champion. That honour now passes to James Lambert. He and Alan Jones, now to be considered the number two, have had a busy winter. Lambert spread his wings to take part in Nordic combined events — jumping and cross-country skiing. In one he managed a third and was sixth in a jumping competition. Lambert, as British number one, becomes a man with a mountain to climb.

More on winter sports. The recent Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan, culminated in an apologetic apology to South Korea by the president of the organizing committee, Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, for a series of mistakes. The first came after the South Korean speed skater, Kim So-hee, won the 1500 metres short-course event. The organizers started to play him the Mongolian national anthem. Realizing their error, they hastily grabbed the tape of another anthem and played that instead. It was, inevitably, that for North Korea. Once you start making errors, you can't stop, of course: the next day, Kim and another South Korean skater were introduced to the crowd as North Koreans. "There was no public intention or political motive," Tsutsumi assured the South Korean ambassador, who is reported to have shown "understanding".

It is important to get your priorities right. George Bush is doing so by combining a lightning visit to the Canadian prime minister, Brian Mulroney, next month, with the start of the baseball season. It is unclear whether the main purpose of the trip is Mulroney or the Toronto Skydome, where the Toronto Blue Jays start their season



Bush: rooting for Texas

against the Texas Rangers. The president's son, George Walker Bush, is part-owner of the Rangers. It is a baseball tradition for visiting clubs to throw out the first pitch at the first home game of the season, and since both dignitaries will be at the game, this involves a difficult question of baseballing protocol. "I don't want to do it if people think it's frivolous," said Bush.

Regular readers of this space will notice a new, rasping authority to my prose style. This is because I am no longer to be considered primarily as a writer. I am now a professional sportsman, the David Gower, who also writes for this newspaper. At the Potton Cross-Country event in Bedfordshire recently, I and my horse finished third in the Open Class. This earned us, in addition to a yellow rosette, a cheque for a fiver. I was pretty cool about it, but then we pros always are. Right, Dave?

The violence in Natal which has claimed 3,000 lives in five years casts a cloud over South Africa's entire future. Nelson Mandela, of the African National Congress, and Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha movement, will be playing for enormous stakes when they meet at Taylor's Halt on Monday in an attempt to stem the violence. Both have appealed for peace before, only to be ignored.

The United Democratic Front/ANC say Chief Buthelezi and Inkatha are almost solely responsible, and accuse him of acting as a virtual extension of the white state. They point to numerous occasions when the police and army have stood by and allowed Inkatha to attack and kill. The UDF says its supporters suffer most casualties, proving Inkatha's aggressive intent, and that Inkatha continues to include within its inner councils war lords and "shacklords" in the squatter camps with fearsome private armies.

In the eyes of many young, educated and urbanised blacks, Inkatha stands for tribalism and the bad old Africa of blood-thirsty, autocratic chiefs. Buthelezi, they say, has played the government's game by agree-

ing to hold power within the KwaZulu "homeland". Buthelezi, for his part, points out that he assumed power in KwaZulu only after consultation with the ANC, with whom he maintained good relations until the late 1970s. Indeed, he still sees himself as part of the ANC tradition, which he says has been hijacked by exiled radicals, most of them Xhosa. It was, he feels, these elements who were ultimately responsible for the UDF decision to move in on his political territory in 1985. This does seem to have been a planned move: the UDF instructed local lawyers in advance to be ready with affidavits because there was about to be a lot of trouble, and then bussed in "young comrades" from Soweto.

These militants, Inkatha alleges, attempted to win their point by intimidation, enforcing school or work stay-aways by brute force. Naturally, says Inkatha, its community leaders (so-called

warlords) sought to resist such tactics, and so the fighting began. Be that as it may, the fighting long ago took local root in the overcrowded townships and squatter camps around Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and is now deeply embedded in local and personal feuds as well as in criminal activity, for in manner of protection and extortion racketeers thrive in such a troubled atmosphere.

Every night since November there have been houses in flames in Kwa Mashu township outside Durban. Mphahlele, the worst trouble spot of all, is a little Lebombo. Many African adults are terrified of "the children", for a whole generation has been brutalized in the fighting. Thousands of children, displaced from their homes, now live wild in the bush and hire themselves out as warriors.

But the children too, though increasingly ANC-aligned, are cross-pressured. During the

white election in September, the "comrades" threatened to break the arms of those who did not observe a school boycott; Inkatha bosses threatened violence against those who stayed at home. The result: lots of children went to school and had their arms broken at the gates.

Urbanization is accompanied by a rapid process of social differentiation. Beneath the shackled one finds a growing African middle class, a large salariat and working class — and a great sea of unemployed. The troubles see an unholy alliance of top and bottom against the middle, as shackled on the one hand and desperate lumpen elements on the other prey on those in work. Some of those in the middle seek refuge by joining one or other party for protection; others try desperately to avoid any commitment.

Since November the prospect of negotiations with the whites has sharpened political com-

petition as the ANC, which is clearly gaining ground, seeks to take full advantage of its unbanning and its new momentum after Mandela's release, while Inkatha grimly and bloodily holds on. The first challenge that will confront Mandela and Buthelezi at Monday's meeting is simply whether they have the ability, the organization or the discipline to rein in their followers.

When I raised this question with Chief Buthelezi last month he felt that while an ANC-Inkatha pact would not stop the violence, it would mean they could combine their forces to crush those who still made trouble. But the sight of such a strong form of ANC-Inkatha collaboration would undoubtedly produce major defections from the ANC. There is, moreover, the difficult question of the white troops now deployed in many townships. The ANC demands their removal,

but it will have to confront the fact that the troop presence is by no means universally unpopular and that there may be no other way of enforcing the peace. The ANC may even have to co-operate with the army in policing a peace settlement. These would all be difficult pills for the ANC to swallow and could endanger its unity and standing in other parts of the country.

Above all, though, the war in Natal poses the question of whether peaceful political competition can be achieved among the various contending black parties. There is a great danger that majority rule could lead not to a promised land but to the eruption of similarly bloody conflicts elsewhere.

There is, after all, the awful precedent of the 1879 Zulu war. The war saw the vengeful British inflict dreadful atrocities on the defeated Zulu people — bringing in heavy artillery to shell Zulu villages. But when the Pax Britannica was finally restored, the Zulus turned on one another, and the blood-letting made the casualties inflicted by the British seem as nothing. Might blacks throughout South Africa do the same as the horrors of apartheid are lifted?

R.W. Johnson sets the scene for the Mandela-Buthelezi talks

Cry, the bloodied country

Make these fiefdoms prove their worth

The draft of the government decision, expected early next week, on whether or not Britain should rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is now on the Prime Minister's desk.

Britain withdrew from Unesco in 1963, citing gross mismanagement, ineffective and wasteful expenditure, and the infection of its debates and programmes by destructive political controversy. If the Government adheres to these criteria in assessing Unesco's reforms, it cannot consistently return. Unesco has been under new management for nearly 30 months, but its programmes are as ill-focused as ever, and the only sign of "reforms" has been the creation this month of 44 new posts.

The decision has implications which reach far beyond Unesco. If Britain returns without solid justification, it will confirm that the West is incapable of being serious about dragging the UN into the 21st century.

In theory, the UN organizations ought to be entering a golden decade. The prospects for multilateral co-operation have never been brighter, thanks to a combination of political, economic and social factors.

The Soviet Union's changed diplomatic profile, the political transformation in Eastern Europe, and the passing of the "independence" generation of Third World leaders should all make for a cooling of the confrontational rhetoric which has produced such affronts to sense and morals as the 1973 UN resolution declaring Zionism a form of racism. Global economic integration has robbed national sovereignty of some of its potency. So has the rise to political prominence of problems such as drugs-trafficking and climate change.

Yet few UN organizations are equipped to face these new challenges. They continue to be plagued by the internal strife and mismanagement for which Unesco has become a byword. As purely governmental clubs — which have habitually treated non-governmental organizations with disdain, and commerce with hostility — they are in any case handicapped in a world largely shaped by forces outside government. Their performance compounds that handicap.

The debates still have such a tenuous grip on reality that the UN General Assembly sees nothing odd about declaring the 1990s International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Many of the UN fiefdoms — it has sprouted more than 100 since 1945 — are appallingly managed and almost totally unaccountable.

Western governments are far more ready for this state of affairs than is suggested by the bleatings of diplomats about the West's minority status in a one-state, one-vote system. Western governments provide the lion's share of UN finance, and they have the diplomatic skills and the global political influence to



Rosemary Righter urges the West to adopt a tougher policy towards the UN special agencies

bring the rogue barons to heel. Instead, they have adopted what Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, the former US permanent representative at the UN, once called a "policy of pre-emptive capitulation", acquiescing in absurd and sometimes disgraceful political charades, contenting themselves with minor amendments to fundamentally flawed programmes and tolerating managers and management practices that the worst-run nationalized industry would never accept.

By treating the UN (excepting, to some extent, the Security Council) as a Third World playpen, while deploring its "politicization", Western governments have contributed significantly to its decline. When they have taken action, it has been too little and too late. For 13 years, out of reverse racism, the West allowed an African lord of misrule, Amadou Mahtar M'bow, to ruin Unesco, and it has been apparent for at least a year that his successor, Señor Federico Mayor of Spain, is not the hoped-for new broom.

Yet last November, Unesco's "new" programme, which does little more than massage its old mix of activities into new packages, was accepted *en bloc*. It took Señor Mayor's overnight addition to Unesco's overblown payroll of at least \$6 million worth of appointments, all in the name of efficiency, to sting Western ambassadors into action. Creating these posts in the name of efficiency, Señor Mayor troubled neither to advertise

them nor to fulfil his legal obligation to consult Unesco's executive board on senior appointments. That has infuriated even France, which until now has been content to treat Unesco as an extension of its policies for Francophone Africa.

Unesco is probably beyond salvation. So may be the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, where the West has failed to unseat Edouard Saouma, under whom the FAO has become riddled with pork-barrel politics. Both may have sunk into irrelevance. But that cannot be said of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the chief executive of which resigned in October, leaving behind an organization deeply in the red and at odds with governments, the media, and itself.

Nor is it true of the World Health Organization, which does vital work and has until recently been one of the UN's best-run organizations. Yet in 1988 the West did nothing to stop the election as director-general of Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, WHO's regional head for Asia, although not one government thought him of sufficient stature. The chickens are coming home to roost.

The resignation this month of Dr Jonathan Mann, one of the most respected international operators the UN has ever fielded, puts in jeopardy the highly successful Global Aids Pro-

gramme which he created. Dr Mann gave as reasons for his resignation Dr Nakajima's "systematic interference" with the programme's management, and lack of commitment to its objectives. His departure is the most visible symptom of WHO's contagion with the UN diseases of autocratic yet indecisive management, poor staff morale and performance, and misdirected resources. His complaints are echoed elsewhere in WHO. The Essential Drugs Programme, which gives poor countries basic medicines at affordable prices, is in such disarray that the Nordic countries last week lodged a complaint.

Dr Mann's word carries immense weight, yet there is no indication that any Western government is prepared to intervene in what a senior British official last week described as "an internal staff matter, just a question of personalities".

Excessive fidelity to institutional moulds will hinder international co-operation. Western governments need to decide whether or not they take UN organizations seriously as channels for multilateral co-operation. If they do, they should forget about reforming the worst of them, build up the capacities of the small number capable of good work, and redirect funds accordingly.

Otherwise, they should be frank about the virtues of bypassing them. The collapse of the Berlin Wall has removed the familiar (and defunct) excuse that the UN functions badly, because it mirrors a world at loggerheads. The channels for co-operation have multiplied in ways which could never have been foreseen in 1945. Competition is healthy. It is time for the United Nations to be exposed to it.

Clifford Longley marks his card for the Runcie succession stakes

Habgood by a head

Messrs Ladbroke insist on treating the selection of the successor to Dr Robert Runcie as the Cantuar Stakes — with the first prize, presumably, two palaces and 10 years or so in purgatory. With bishops known officially by their Christian name and diocesan name, sometimes in Latin, the commentary could go like this:

"They're off! Straight from the starting gate like a bullet, Bill Petriburg on Funny Boy is far ahead of the field at the first fence and going like a steam train. No one else has started yet except Dick Oxon on Ethical Pitfalls — and he's off at a gallop in the opposite direction. A posse is trying to assemble under Chelmsford — a bishop's gotta do what a bishop's gotta do — to fetch him back. But John Waine (for it is he) can't find his horse in the dark."

"Back at the start, Robin Armagh has remounted No Surrender, but seems to be waiting for an official escort before setting off. John Ebor is insisting that his horse, Public Faith, is purely hypothetical and refuses to mount. Just a minute... he's convened a seminar! John of St Albans is reading a statement to his horse, Press Association. Colin Winton is into his third genuflection before getting into the saddle on Basingstoke Man, but he's waiting for the next race, the London Cup..."

An ecclesiastical steeplechase can be good fun. It is not thought bad form in the Church of England to admit to being mildly ambitious, but the slight embarrassment associated with the worldliness of such thoughts is smothered, as in the case of sex, by treating them humorously.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury has a stock joke about two very status-minded prelates, a predecessor of his and an Archbishop of York, each of whom called himself Primate of England. On one occasion they both tried to occupy the same throne, and there was an unseemly push-and-shove. Eventually, this being the Middle Ages, the pope, with Solomon-like wisdom, solved the quarrel by making the Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of All England, leaving York with the lesser title. It might be called the two-thrones solution.

This primary primacy of Canterbury has established a well-trodden path from Bishopsthorpe, York, to Lambeth Palace, a pilgrims' way which has no return journey. So whenever Canterbury has become vacant and York is occupied by a younger man who is fit and competent, there has usually been something of a presumption in his favour. There ought, therefore, to be something of a presumption in favour of the present Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood. There ought to be even more of a presumption in his favour, on this occasion, as he happens to be the outstanding churchman of his generation, with the conceivable exception of Dr Runcie himself.

Yet for various reasons, few in the Church of England regard him as a likely successor. He reinforced this feeling when he remarked, some time ago, that he is too old (63 in June) to be Archbishop of Canterbury at the time of the next Lambeth Conference, due in 1998.

The Church of England does not care very much about the other churches in the Anglican Communion, perhaps on the basis that they need it more than it needs them. It would not be easy to persuade the Church of England, therefore, that it could not have the man it wanted simply because it would be a bit inconvenient to Anglicans elsewhere. Dr Habgood's reasoning, if adopted as a principle for the future, would restrict the choice of Archbishops of Canterbury every time, and the only long-term solution would be always to appoint a new archbishop halfway between Lambeth conferences, while not insisting invariably on retirement by 70. But that would be the tail wagging the dog.

Dr Habgood is a shade unpopular, for the superficial reason that he sometimes adopts a slightly patronizing manner, particularly when he feels called upon to point out the obvious. He is a further shade unpopular among conservative evangelicals for being tolerant of theological liberalism, and for being too clever to be narrow about doctrine. Anglo-Catholics are cautious of him because he does not share their objections to the ordination of women. The more fundamentalist backbench Conservatives are hostile because he does not agree with them. One or two other marks are recorded against him in various black books, though none of them fatal.

Against these quite trivial objections are formidable credentials. He runs a good diocese and inspires loyalty in it. He is a great committee man — and the church is run by committees. He is an excellent theologian — and the Church of England will get out of its present mess only if it is made to think very hard. He was trained as a scientist and is the one man on the bench of bishops of whom it can be realistically said that he would probably have risen to the top in any profession he chose — as a Lord Chief Justice, Nobel scientist, Cabinet minister, vice-chancellor, or whatever.

The Church of England has to find the best man available, and all the candidates have flaws. Here, Dr Habgood does no worse than average. Comparing abilities, he easily comes top. Intellectually, he could eat his own rival, the Archbishop of Armagh, Robert Eames, for breakfast. Dr Eames is no mean figure, so that is no mean tribute. And if Dr Eames is good enough, he is certainly young enough to succeed the Primate of the North when the Cantuar Cup is next in contention.

When the first man landed on the moon, I was in Jamaica. At the beach, our transistor radio crackled out the news while a very large black lady sold coconuts.

I will never forget her reaction. She did not believe it. It was a trick. The Americans had made it up. The pictures were faked. She was quite sure. Her ignorance of space technology and the workings of the world's news media induced not intellectual humility, but blithe confidence in her own judgement. She might be a peasant woman, but she was not going to be fooled. On the eve of April Fool's Day, I miss that woman. We were to be entering one of those years which do for humans what the volcanic upheavals of the geological period did for rocks. Imperial mountain ranges are being levelled and new ones grown up, the electoral ground is

everywhere quivering, steam is hissing from the most unlikely places and the political landscape is changing before our eyes.

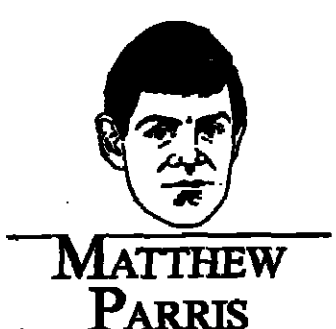
The problem is that you just don't know what to believe. Since Christmas, I have been surveying each day's papers convinced that I am confronted by yet another bunch of April Fool's Day hoaxes gone off half-cock and too early, like daffodils in the snow.

What started it (and rumbles on) was *perestroika*. As the whole of the Eastern block shakes before our eyes, we only await Mr Gorbachev's appearance on TV wearing a red plastic nose, rocking with laughter and shouting "April Fool".

But before this background of earth-shattering unlikelihood dances a foreground of more trivial impossibilities.

It began with a press release on Ministry of Agriculture notepaper headed "Minister opens egg plant". It was a new egg-packing factory. Then Labour MP Austin Mitchell started a series of written parliamentary questions about mice. Would the Prime Minister "raise the issue of the European Commission's proposed appointment of a European Mouse Care Expert?"

But surely, I thought, *The Times* could not be serious in its announcement that "a leading



MATTHEW PARRIS

energy analyst, Dr Florentine Krause", had explained that "pigs could play a vital role in curbing global warming". He meant it. Apparently "pigs emit only 1.3 per cent of their diet as methane"

that is, they fart less than sheep. Sheep bore the brunt of yet another Ministry of Agriculture news release of whose seriousness I have still to be convinced.

"Advice to pregnant women during the lambing period" was the headline. "Pregnant women should avoid close contact with ewes... If you experience influenza-like symptoms after coming into contact with sheep, seek immediate medical advice."

And, as April Fools' Day and the community care approach, the pace of pre-hoax incredibilities has been hotting up. A certain Dr Bruce Reddington, of Sunbition, wrote last week to *The Sunday Times* about Aids. Dr R

accepts that up to 40 per cent of Africans will soon have Aids; a prospect "of hundreds of millions of deaths". But to this cloud the doctor sees a silver lining. "In terms of overpopulation, energy consumption and the release of greenhouse gases, it will be the salvation of the planet."

And, lest unbelievable insensitivity be thought a white man's problem, take a *Financial Times* report of Robert Mugabe's present election campaign against the Zimbabwean opposition party, Zup. "Aids kills," says his Zanu television ad. "So does Zup." Mrs Thatcher might try that approach.

In the same week, the *Daily*

Mail's environment correspondent had warned of a "Plague of Ladybirds". "Sunseekers," he tells us, "will find a nip in the air as the gardeners' friend takes wing. People wearing yellow T-shirts on beaches in the South and East are apparently at greatest risk." Serious? Apparently.

But surely not this? "Misery is skin deep for millions," says the same paper. "The greenhouse effect could mean misery for millions of acute sufferers, skin experts warned yesterday."

"Speaking at the launch of National Spot Week..." No. I can't bear it.

Besides, there is time only for the latest news. I read somewhere landlady of Lord Linley's local, the Ferret and Firkin, is a theology graduate.

Tomorrow can only be an anti-climax.

They can't all be having us on...

for Rothschild

SATURDAY MARCH 31 1990

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6480 (+0.0115)
W German mark
2.7786 (+0.0060)
Exchange Index
87.9 (+0.6)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1768.7 (-12.5)
FT-SE 100
2247.9 (-15.1)
USM (Datastream)
142.18 (+0.88)

Market report, page 20

Camford
to review
contracts

The directors of Camford Engineering have embarked on "an urgent review" of their controversial service contracts after Markheath, which is bidding £53.8 million, won an injunction in the High Court. Markheath drew attention this week to the fact that the contracts allow the directors to walk out with substantial compensation in the event of a predator acquiring a 30 per cent stake. Markheath holds 29.96 per cent.

In the event of a successful bid the cost of meeting the salary element of a compensation package has been estimated at about £2.4 million.

Yesterday, Markheath successfully applied to the High Court for an injunction preventing the Camford board doing exactly that. The board has said that pending its review the directors will not exercise their contractual rights.

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2708.91 (-17.79)
Tokyo
Nikkei Av'ge 29880.45 (-1045.71)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2897.98 (-2.54)
Amsterdam
CEB Tendency 116.4 (+0.1)
Sydney AG 1935.7 (-11.3)
Frankfurt BAX 1088.55 (+1.68)
Brussels
General 6134.85 (-14.54)
Paris CAC 521.15 (+1.00)
Zurich SBA Gen 591.6 (+0.2)
London
FT-A All-Share 1114.94 (-5.38)
FT-30 1215.52 (-7.00)
FT-100 2247.9 (-15.1)
FT-1000 76.65 (+0.2)
Recent issues Page 18
4pm prices Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:
Bass 841p (+10p)
T&N 170p (+8p)
Telford 187p (+17p)
Lassmo 588p (+10p)
Barry Wallace A 305p (+10p)
Farnbridge 132p (+10p)
Red Int 415p (+9p)

FALLS:
Grand Met 586p (-10p)
Liberty 425p (-10p)
Thomson Corp 785p (-20p)
Copson 57p (-28p)
Redland 530p (-10p)
Wolstenholme Rink 782p (-12p)
Allied Lyons 448p (-4p)
News Corp 457p (-10p)
Securicor A 722p (-10p)
Security Services 612p (-13p)
Widacore 704p (-8p)
Borland 897p (-5p)
Electronic Machine 1143p (-11p)
4pm prices 288p
SEAO Volume 453.7m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15.15-15.25%
3-month eligible bill 14.15-14.25%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.62-7.80%
30-year bond 9 1/2-9.58%

CURRENCIES

London New York
£/\$ 1.6475 \$/£ 0.61375
£/DM 2.7786 DM/£ 0.3600
£/Sfr 2.2479 Sfr/£ 0.4445
£/Yen 164.80 Yen/£ 0.0061
£/A\$ 1.6480 A\$/£ 0.61375
£/NZ\$ 1.6480 NZ\$/£ 0.61375
£/Ecu 1.6480 Ecu/£ 0.61375
£/Gul 1.6480 Gul/£ 0.61375

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$372.20 pm \$368.50
Close \$368.50-370.00 (\$224.50
225.00)
New York
Comex \$368.50-370.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) - \$18.30 bid (\$18.20)
 * Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia	1.6480	France	6.55
Belgium	2.2479	Germany	2.7786
Canada	1.6480	Greece	3.40
Denmark	1.6480	Italy	1.36
Finland	5.94	Japan	164.80
France	6.55	Netherlands	2.2479
Germany	2.7786	Norway	4.76
Greece	3.40	Portugal	200
Italy	1.36	Spain	166.37
Japan	164.80	Sweden	4.76
Netherlands	2.2479	Switzerland	2.2479
Norway	4.76	Turkey	1.6480
Portugal	200	USA	1.6480
Spain	166.37	Yugoslavia	1.6480
Sweden	4.76		
Switzerland	2.2479		
Turkey	1.6480		
USA	1.6480		
Yugoslavia	1.6480		

Deadlock over 'transplant' Japanese cars

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

JAPAN and the European Community have agreed to explore how far and how quickly the EC should open up its market to Japanese car exports after 1992. But Tokyo has yet to accept fully an EC plan for a transitional period during which exports would be monitored before being allowed full access.

EC diplomatic sources said that Mr. Frans Andriessen, the EC's External Relations Commissioner, and Mr. Katsunori Muro, Japan's Trade and Industry Minister, agreed last night to begin exploratory talks on how to achieve a liberalized car market after 1992.

Although Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry officials, who feel they hold the best cards, are unwilling to concede so easily in the game that they will accept an interim period of quotas, industry sources believe Japan is willing voluntarily to accept its exports as it does to the US.

But the two sides still seem deadlocked over the prickly issue of whether cars made in Japanese factories in the EC — so-called "transplants" — should be included in any monitoring.

Mr. Andriessen thinks they should. Japan — and some EC members, like Britain, whose exports of transplants to EC neighbours would suffer — thinks they should not.

Mr. Andriessen, who returns to Europe today after two days of talks with Japanese ministers, said that EC members' national restrictions on imports must disappear with the arrival of the single market. They will, anyway, become unenforceable under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade after January 1, 1993.

But he added that an unspecified transitional period was needed to allow Europe to complete the modernization of its car industry — the EC's biggest employer — to cope with Japanese competition. Japanese cars have captured more than 30 per cent of the market in EC countries with no quota restrictions, compared with an overall share of 9.2 per cent of the EC market in 1988.

"This period must be limited and clearly defined. To be meaningful it has to take into account transplants in the Community," the Commissioner said.

But while Japan appears to be willing to compromise, Mr. Andriessen went with no mandate to negotiate and arrives home knowing that further progress could be thwarted by in-fighting within the EC about how best to proceed.

He will brief EC ministers in Luxembourg on Monday on his talks. But the Commission has not been expecting much, apart from a long battle. Mr. Andriessen knows that any concessions he makes will leave him at the mercy of EC hardliners like France, which claim that the survival of the EC's car industry is at stake and which want quotas to be maintained for a transition period of up to 12 years.

Mme Edith Cresson, the French Minister for European affairs, has even given warning that France, Italy and Spain will defy the single market project and close their border to "excessive" Japanese imports if the agreement is not to their liking.

Pearson buys Alton Towers

By Jeremy Andrews

PEARSON, the publishing, investment banking, and oil services group, has paid £60 million for Alton Towers, the Midlands theme park.

Talks between Mr. John Broome, the owner of Alton Towers, and Pearson have been held since last year. Lord Blakenham, Pearson chairman, said: "We reckon the assets are worth more than £60 million. Alton has 200 acres of land with outline planning permission surplus to the main business. We have always liked the idea of owning Alton Towers, but in the past it has not been available."

In the year to last November, Alton Towers had operating profits of £3 million before exceptional items on turnover of £20 million, according to unaudited accounts.

Pearson also revealed pre-tax profits up 26 per cent to £251 million in the year to December — about £20 million higher than expected.

Several acquisitions and disposals affected the figures, but the company said the underlying growth in trading profits was 15 per cent if their impact was excluded.

The surprise results boosted the shares by 4p to 695p. They fell initially because of the £72 million ordinary share placing to help pay for the Alton purchase and news that Pearson wanted the power to issue \$500 million of variable rate preference shares.

Analysts had not allowed for the 37 per cent rise to £447 in trading profits from Lazard, the merchant bank, nor the near doubling from £14.8 million to £27 million from its US oil services activities.

The £300,000 fall to £11.5 million from entertainment was because of the impact of the warm summer and transport strikes on Madame Tussauds, and had been expected.

However, the 8 per cent rise to £58.9 million from newspapers and magazines was less



Surprising the market with 26% profits rise, Frank Barlow, managing director (left) and Lord Blakenham in the Savoy Gardens yesterday

than expected. A £4 million fall in trading profits in the second half was partly due to redundancy costs at the Northern Echo.

Trading profits from book publishing rose £3 million to £60.7 million, though the comparison is affected by the £283 million acquisition of the US educational publisher, Addison-Wesley, in 1988. Because of this purchase, Pearson's sales in North America exceeded those in Britain for the first time.

The contribution from Elsevier, the Dutch publisher where Pearson holds 22 per cent, rose from £3.2 million to £26 million. However, Lord Blakenham said he no longer

believed a full merger was likely as the rise in Elsevier's share price and the fall in sterling meant it would be difficult without dilution for Pearson's shareholders.

There was an extraordinary gain of £104 million after tax, of which £52 million came from the sale of its stake in Château Latour to Allied Lyons and £28 million from the disposal of Reuters shares. Property contributed £23.1 million, just less than in 1988.

A four-point fall in the tax charge to 30 per cent helped earnings per share rise by a fifth to 67p. The final dividend rises by 2p to 12.5p, making 21.5p, up 19 per cent.

New hope for power station

By Matthew Road

The sale of Alton Towers leaves Mr. John Broome, the park's former owner and continuing chairman, in far better shape to further his ambitious plans for Battersea power station.

Work on the site stopped a year ago, it had been believed under pressure from Security Pacific. Mr. Broome's banker, which had advanced £55 million of initial finance towards Mr. Broome's £245 million dream to turn the London landmark into a state of the art

leisure and entertainment complex. But yesterday Mr. Broome said it was he who called a halt to construction. "I stopped the scheme in February last year, well before we had used up all the available funds."

Mr. Broome said work stopped when it became clear that a further £41 million would be needed to be spent on stabilizing and underpinning the power station.

By then Mr. Broome, who acquired the site for £1.5 million in 1987, says he had spent

£48 million on the building. Mr. Broome now estimates that £100 million will have to be spent on the power station, at present little more than a shell, before work can begin on his leisure project, now budgeted to cost £229 million.

However, work on the site is not expected to start before the summer, by when Mr. Broome hopes he will have received planning permission for a substantial commercial development on 20 acres of land adjacent to the power station.

Distilleries urging kinder Korean tax

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

SCOTCH whisky makers enter three days of talks in Seoul next week to try to persuade the Korean government to ease a taxation regime that has pushed the price of a bottle of Scotch there to at least £30.

Because of different tax treatment, the local spirit, soju, sells for about £1 a bottle and has a dominating 97 per cent of the spirits market in Korea, where drinkers mostly prefer beer and spirits.

Imported whiskies have only 1 per cent of the Korean market, in which drinkers are the biggest consumers of spirits in the world after the Russians.

Koreans have already proved to have a taste for Scotch, despite the price structure.

The value of Scotch sales to Korea rose 51 per cent last year compared with the previous year.

One factor behind the rise in sales was that in mid-year the Korean authorities dropped quota restrictions that had

been applied to imported spirits.

The Scotch makers believe that Korea, if the penal tax regime were modified, could be almost as big a market for Scotch as Japan, which is the third-largest national market for Scotch now that the Japanese have eased their own taxation barriers to imported spirits.

Last year, Scotch sales to Japan rose by 27 per cent in volume and value was up 72 per cent.

The Seoul talks will be led by Mr. Bill Bewsher, director general of the Scotch Whisky Association.

Mr. Bewsher said: "There is absolutely no reason why whisky should be singled out like this for such penal and blatant discrimination."

What has caused particular annoyance to the whisky makers is that imported brandy, although heavily taxed by the Koreans, does not carry as heavy a tax burden as whisky does.

Dutch pay £154m for Robert Horne

By Melinda Wittstock

THE British paper merchant, Robert Horne, whose shares were suspended at 435p on Wednesday pending news of a bid, has accepted a £154.1 million offer from Buhrmann-Tetterode, the leading Dutch paper wholesaler and office equipment supplier.

Shareholders are being offered 490p cash for ordinary shares and 452p cash for Class A shares — valuing Robert Horne at an historic exit multiple of 16 times earnings.

Robert Horne shares — 51.3 per cent owned by the Horne family — stood at 245p and the "A" shares at 207p on January 9, just before Buhrmann-Tetterode said it had started talks about a possible takeover.

Buhrmann-Tetterode, quoted in London and Amsterdam, has received acceptances in respect of 61.2 per cent of Robert Horne's voting stock and 33.5 per cent of its non-voting shares from Kenneth Horne Family Holdings Ltd and Robert Horne directors.

The combined business will rank as one of the largest paper merchants in Europe, with a combined market share of 8 per cent. Robert Horne will retain its management, effectively continuing as an independent company, said Mr. Robert van Oort, chairman of Buhrmann-Tetterode.

Mr. Kenneth Berrill, the chairman of Robert Horne, said the deal would allow his company to continue to expand in the important European market.

Robert Horne shareholders are also being offered a full loan note alternative and a partial Buhrmann-Tetterode share alternative, which, if fully subscribed, would mean an 8 per cent rise in Buhrmann-Tetterode's capital.

Buhrmann-Tetterode saw a 33 per cent rise in 1989 pre-tax profits to Fl 219.2 million (£70 million) on sales up 13 per cent to Fl 5.1 billion.

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US banks turn down \$100m buy-in opportunity

British firm rides to Colt's rescue

By Stephen Leather

A LONDON investment banking firm has masterminded the management buy-in of one of the companies which helped to tame the Wild West. Oakes, Fitzwilliams & Co rode to the rescue of Colt Firearms after American banks gave the \$100 million management buy-in the thumbs down.

Oakes, with Ivory & Sims, the Scottish investment manager, and County Nat-West Ventures, the investment banker, put together an innovative financial package giving them control of the brand name and all the Colt patents in exchange for \$25 million.

The patents will be licensed back to CF Holdings, a company created to take over the Connecticut firm, which has been making handguns since Sam Colt founded the business in 1832. The deal effectively takes the goodwill off the gun firm's books, and at the same time allows the British financiers to license the Colt brand name around the world.

"Some research was done which showed that Colt was the fifth best-known brand name in the world, behind names like McDonald's and Coke," said Mr. Duncan Fitzwilliams of Oakes.

A new company has been formed to look after the licensing of the Colt name. "All sorts of things have been suggested — Colt toiletries, Colt underpants — you

can imagine all the fun we've been having thinking up ways of using the name," said Mr. Fitzwilliams.

Before the British team could unlock the value of the famous name, they had to deal with a four-year old strike and bring in a Swiss bank, Creditanstalt-Bankverein, which invested \$40 million.

The smooth-talking Britons also persuaded the United Auto Workers Union to take 11.5 per cent of the gun firm's shares and arranged for 1,000 workers to receive back pay of \$10 million.

They also convinced the State of Connecticut Pension Fund to put up \$25 million in exchange for a 47 per cent equity stake.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

£182m payment ends dispute over ITC fall

A PAYMENT of £182.5 million to the International Tin Council's creditors yesterday ended their 5½-year struggle to extract money from the 23 governments behind the collapsed commodity organization. However, the out-of-court settlement to 20 metal brokers, 13 banks and three smelters is much less than the creditors' claims of about £500 million.

The courts gave moral support to the claims, but upheld the governments' case that they had no legal responsibility.

Lincoln back Disposals lift in the black Aitch results

IN ITS first profitable 12 months since 1984, Lincoln House, the furniture group, made £564,000 pre-tax (£256,000 loss) last year. Sales improved to £20.9 million, up from £16.6 million. Earnings were 4.23p (3.69p loss) but there is again no dividend.

A SURPLUS £442,000 from property disposals helped Aitch Holdings, the fashion retailer, return to profit in the year to November with £553,000 pre-tax (£1.3 million loss). Sales rose to £37.6 million (£19.7 million). There is again no dividend, on earnings of 1p (4.1p loss).

Era defends buyout

THE chairman of Era Group, Mr Murray Gordon, has written to shareholders to defend the £1 management buyout of the Laxton reproduction furniture business despite an alternative offer from Mr David Llewellyn, its former managing director, said to be worth £1 million more to Era.

Mr Gordon says Mr Llewellyn and his consortium did not have the necessary funds within the time limit set by the board. The management buyout includes write-offs of £3.9 million. Era shareholders vote on the deal on Wednesday.

DC Gardner Executex to go private at £1.6m

PRE-TAX profits at DC Gardner, the business consultant, jumped from £1 million to £1.6 million in 1989 on sales up from £6 million to £9.9 million. The total dividend rises from 3.3p to 4.3p on earnings per share, after exceptional items, of 10.7p (11.4p).

EXECUTEX Clothes, the troubled men's suit maker, is to be taken private with an agreed £858,991 bid from Premierfund. Executex yesterday fell into a pre-tax £1.1 million loss for the 1989 year (previous year's profit: £442,700). There is no dividend (1.5p last year).

PLANS for the development of Grand Metropolitan include infill acquisitions worth \$500 million and a Tokyo listing, according to Mr Allen Sheppard, the chairman.

GrandMet is wary of specifying where it will be investing to expand Pillsbury, the US food group bought in 1988 for \$5.75 billion. But observers indicated European foods. There is a perceived weakness on the Continent where Mr Sheppard is likely to want to add another brand name.

The group has sworn off "macro-acquisitions" for the foreseeable future, its chairman told analysts. It would run into problems with the planned New York listing in September if it were to alter drastically its structure again.

But Mr Sheppard pointed out that \$500 million could not be considered a significant sum for GrandMet. It will raise \$100 million at most from the US listing, and Mr Sheppard is known to favour a smaller figure because of the low value, in his view, of GrandMet shares at present.

Tokyo should follow in about 15 months, once the group has boosted the proportion of Japanese shareholders to 2 per cent. Only 4.5 per cent of its shares are held outside Britain — about half of those in the US — despite its international spread and ambitions.

Within two months, Alpo, the pet food business, will be sold for \$600 million to \$700 million. Half a dozen serious tenders have been received.

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"Another wouldn't do us much harm, but it would be a waste of taxpayer's money," he said.

But analysts believe the European Commission may intervene in the Elders deal and require some changes to a 10-year beer supply agreement.

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"Ours is not a head-to-head battle with McDonald's," he said. But Burger King has had its best quarter for three years in January to March, with total worldwide sales 13 per cent up on a year ago. Restaurant volumes were running as much as 16 per cent higher than a year previously in one week in March.

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Turnover was £58.8 million, up from £46.3 million. The interim dividend remains 1.25p on earnings of 4.5p (5p).

Shareholders were warned in November that a decline in performance was likely, and

Mr Michael Waller,

£150m Lutyens House deal boosts Greycoat

By Matthew Bond

SHARES in Greycoat, the property developer, rose 12p to 415p on news that the company had successfully refinanced Lutyens House, its 192,000 sq ft City development. BP, the oil company, will pay about £55 a sq ft rent and move in this year.

Greycoat has teamed up with Solomon Brothers International to issue £150 million of "deep discount stepped coupon first mortgage notes". The issue — the largest securitised development finance ever issued in Britain — has been bought by international investors, mostly from Japan.

Lutyens House has been

valued at £170 million. At maturity the bond issue is worth 88 per cent thereof.

Traditional mortgage finance would only have been available up to about 65 per cent of value and would have required servicing at full market rates, now approaching 16 per cent. Greycoat's cost of borrowing under this issue — which carries an initial coupon of 6.25 per cent — is 12.382 per cent.

The issue, reflecting the deep discount of the notes, has raised £96.4 million for Greycoat. But there is an additional £15.8 million extraordinary profit arising from

interest swap deals agreed by Mr Richard Guignard, the finance director, last summer.

The total proceeds of the issue are therefore £112.2 million, most of which will be used to repay Greycoat's construction finance of about £92 million.

Mr Guignard indicated that the refinancing package was a perfect illustration of how a modern building let to a top tenant could be exploited as cash flow.

The £9.75 million that BP and National Westminster pay in rent each year will cover the coupon on the notes. For the first six years —

including the first rent review on the building — the coupon is 6.25 per cent.

For the second half of its 12-year life, the coupon on the bond will be 12.5 per cent. The bond's lifespan has been constructed to cover two rent reviews — every five years on commercial property leases.

Because BP's rent matches the coupon on the notes, Lutyens House will have no impact on Greycoat's profit and loss account. But the company's balance sheet — already £73.6 million better off after the refinancing — will benefit from any future increases in the building's value.

Winning scenario for a general election in the autumn of 1991



KENNETH FLEET

The poll tax is about to become a reality in England and Wales, but that is not all. Today is voting day for the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales, when they become distribution companies in preparation for privatization in November. In the Irish Republic, finance ministers of the 12 EC countries are spending the weekend talking about the next steps toward economic and monetary union. The subject of the UK joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System is bound to come up.

Together, electricity privatization and the ERM could have as much, if not more, influence on the outcome of the next general election than the dreaded poll tax. The critical election factor is the level of interest rates in general and mortgage rates in particular. John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, foresees materially lower interest rates from the beginning of next year as inflation falls. Before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee on Wednesday, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, seemed more cautious on both counts. High interest

rates would continue because this is "an era of higher interest rates." Inflation is in the system, the demand for capital is heavy and savings are low.

But "high", and indeed "low", interest rates are relative and at least the Governor thinks ours are high enough unless sterling went through the floor when they would have to go up. And as he came close to saying, if only the Government and its supporters would put their own house in order, stop squabbling and stop undermining the pound's greatest asset (the Prime Minister), the risk of a run on the pound would diminish sharply.

Where Chancellor and Governor, and Nigel Lawson, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Leon Brittan, are out of step with the Prime Minister is over the date of joining the ERM. In my judgement, John Major would be taking a serious

risk in reducing interest rates according to his timetable unless the UK is in the ERM before the year-end. If it is correct that the Prime Minister has agreed to let her Chancellor have the final say on the date, then we should be in by the new year and contemplating a general election in the autumn of 1991 — an election the Government would have a reviving chance of winning. The rate of inflation (forecast at "slightly above" 7 per cent) would not be down to anything like the West German level (the ideal position from which to join the ERM), but provided it was moving down and we were in the ERM, the pound might not come under attack. Interest rates would then start to fall, taking mortgage rates down with them.

In the City's view, this is the only possible election-winning scenario the Government can construct in the time it has left. The area boards would have been sold off in November with perks (discounts on electricity bills) and at attractive prices. The second Major Budget would come in March, 1991, followed by the privatization of National Power and PowerGen.

If nothing else I hope I have taken your mind off the poll tax!

Surprise bid for Early's

A SURPRISE £13.2 million bid has been launched by Grovewood Securities for Early's of Witney, the asset-rich Oxfordshire blanket maker.

Claythorpe, Early's 29.9 per cent shareholder says it will accept the Grovewood bid, unless a higher bid appears.

Part of the offer is to be financed by a placing of 6 million new shares, raising £10.2 million before expenses. Grovewood currently has 19.5 per cent of Early, and with Claythorpe's acceptance controls 49.4 per cent.

Meyer purchase

Meyer International, the builders' and timber merchants, is acquiring Klockner & Co's builders' merchant subsidiary, a sector leader in West Germany, for an undisclosed sum. The business, which has 23 branches, had a turnover of about £100 million in the year to end-December.

Spurs' million

Better home attendances lifted Tottenham Hotspur, the quoted football club, to pre-tax profits of £1.12 million (£275,000) in the six months to end-November. Turnover rose 10 per cent to £11.3 million and earnings to 9.7p (2.5p). The interim dividend is held at 1p.

Faupel suffers

Faupel Trading, importer of textiles from China, expects profits to fall by about £500,000 to £1 million, after the Tiananmen Square massacre caused production difficulties. The company has also been hit by flood damage at a main warehouse. The shares lost 14p to 58p on USM.

Guidehouse fall

Guidehouse Group, the financial services company, saw 1989 pre-tax profits fall 69 per cent to £501,000, after £880,000 in the first half. A final dividend of 0.2p, makes 0.6p (1.4p). This was despite a 26 per cent rise in turnover to £13.4 million.

ATA slips

Pre-tax profits at ATA Selection, the employment slipped £95,000 to £849,000 in 1989 on turnover of £6.3 million (£5.4 million). A final dividend of 1.5p makes 2.5p (2.14p) on earnings of 4.38p (5.23p).

Goal surge

Goal Petroleum raised pre-tax profits to £5.21 million (£443,000) for the year ended December. Net profit at £2.42 million compared with £1.59 million, and net earnings rose from 1.41p to 1.82p. The dividend is held at 1p.

Kingspan ahead

Kingspan, the building materials group, improved pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £2.8 million (£2.69 million) on turnover of £40.5 million (£38.8 million). The dividend is 1r1.33p (1r1.42p) on earnings of 1r10.07p (1r8.43p).

Sale lifts Fairhaven to \$7m



Well-placed: chairman Jim Davidson announces Fairhaven's profit rise yesterday

FAIRHAVEN International, which provides services to the oil, gas and petrochemical construction industries, revealed \$7.32 million pre-tax profits in the year to end-December, against \$2.17 million for the previous 11 months (Philip Pangalos writes).

Profits included an excep-

tional gain of \$4 million from the disposal of the group's interest in one of its two tankers. Pre-tax profits before the exceptional item advanced by 52.7 per cent to \$3.32 million.

Earnings per share jump from 0.8 cents to 2.45 cents, and there is a first-ever divi-

dend of 0.1 cent. Turnover more than doubled, up from \$83.2 million to \$175.1 million.

Mr James Davidson, the chairman, said the group is well-positioned in the offshore construction industry and is also expanding in onshore construction.

Blackwood Hodge director resigns

By Gillian Bowditch

THE mining equipment company, Blackwood Hodge, has lost Mr Kenneth Scobie, its group managing director.

Mr Scobie resigned and left the company on Thursday. No explanation was given for his departure and the company refuses to say whether he will receive any compensation.

A Blackwood spokesman said Mr Scobie's departure was not connected with the results for 1989, which show a £2.2 million loss in Britain.

Profits as a whole are up on last year due to a good performance in other regions and a boost from property profits. Pre-tax profits last year rose from £15.5 million to £18.3 million on sales up from £413 million to £497 million.

Earnings per share were static at 7.4p and the total dividend for the year is up from 1.5p to 1.65p. The results include a £3.8

million profit from property, and profits benefited by £1.5 million from a favourable exchange rate.

The British division made an operating loss of £2.2 million against a profit of £3.2 million.

Mr Roger Finnington, the chairman of Blackwood Hodge, said overseas earnings were reduced last year by a "very poor performance from both domestic and export UK activities."

"In the latter part of 1989, the unacceptable performance of the domestic and export activities of our main British business became increasingly apparent and changes were made in our senior management and in our method of operation," he said.

The group expects the British division to return to profit this year. The shares were unchanged at 36p.

Banks' credit card deal

BARCLAYS Bank has sold its credit card payment business in Scotland to the Bank of Scotland for an undisclosed sum.

The move, the latest upheaval in the credit card industry, will give Bank of Scotland the largest such business north of the border, with 11,000 retailers operating in

18,000 outlets, and a market share approaching 50 per cent. Barclays Merchant Services will continue the processing of Visa and Mastercard payments under contract at Northampton. Retailers' accounts, however, will from Monday be dealt with at the Bank of Scotland's card services centre in Dunfermline.

NewsCorp to sell magazine

By Colin Campbell

THE NEWS Corporation, the world-wide media empire where Mr Rupert Murdoch is the chief executive, expects to receive at least \$400 million from the agreed sale of *Star Magazine* to GP Group, publisher of *The National Enquirer* and *Weekly World News*.

NewsCorp will receive half the proceeds in cash and the rest in preferred stock.

Star Magazine, *The National Enquirer* and *Weekly World News* are mass market, general interest weekly periodicals with a broad range of content, from personality and human interest stories to medical articles.

The sale, which is expected to be completed before June 30, is subject to conditions that include governmental waivers or approvals.

Star Magazine was launched in 1974 and is published in Tarrytown, New York, by News America Publishing Inc, a subsidiary of NewsCorp.

GP plans to maintain the magazine's editorial independence and to continue to publish it at its current location.

Mr Martin Singerman, the president of News America, said: "We are confident that *Star Magazine* will continue to prosper in their good hands."

NewsCorp shares lost 10p to 498p.

1989 - a remarkable year

AN UNBROKEN RECORD OF PROFITABLE GROWTH IN THE 1980s

Del Monte - a world leader in fresh produce

Sansui - a major brand name in international electronics

Leisure - a commitment for the future

	1989	1988	% change
Turnover £m	1162.3	761.0	+53
Profit before tax £m	161.4	112.2	+44
Earnings per share (fully diluted) p	43.2	37.1	+16
Dividend per share (net) p	13.0	9.5	+37
Shareholders' funds £m	827.0	386.2	+114

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

"The year was, by any standards, a remarkable and an appropriate conclusion to a decade in which the Group achieved an unbroken record of profitable growth and success. 1990 has started well; the Board is confident that it will be the beginning of an exciting second decade of growth for the Group, and that the strategy we develop during the 1990s will be as successful as that implemented during the 1980s."

Asif Nadir Chairman

growth on a global scale
POLLY PECK
INTERNATIONAL PLC

Banker tells of action over indemnity

SIR Jack Lyons, the financier, asked an Austrian bank to cover up an indemnity paid after its investment in Guinness, during the bid for Distillers, to "avoid problems" in a Government inquiry. It was alleged in Southwark Crown Court yesterday.

The Zentralbank und Kommerzbank Wien was paid £254,000 for losses suffered when the Guinness share price fell after the £2.7 billion takeover of the Scottish whisky group in 1986.

But the bank, which had invoiced Guinness for the cash, said such documents were "out of the question."

Dr Horst Tiefenthaler, the bank's London representative, told the court of Sir Jack's request: "For the first time I became a bit suspicious and panicky because it was a bit unusual."

He said Sir Jack explained that the Department of Trade investigators could possibly want to interview them both about the share transaction.

And, he said, since an invoice to Guinness had been copied from Sir

Jack's own handwritten suggestion for "consultancy fees" it was obvious "it should be substantiated by some documentation."

Dr Tiefenthaler said he expressed his concern to his superiors in Vienna and was told the request was "out of the question."

Dr Tiefenthaler said Sir Jack always mentioned "we will cover you" and he took this to mean J Lyons Chamberlayne, or Bain, the management consultant, with which he associated Sir Jack.

He told of his surprise at having to invoice the company for "consultancy fees" to collect an indemnity for ZKB's losses.

Dr Tiefenthaler said on June 23, 1986, he telephoned Sir Jack to tell him of the shortfall after the bank sold its Guinness shares.

"I asked him how do we get the money back and Sir Jack said 'leave it to me'."

At a lunch the next day the financier handed him a handwritten invoice, on the bank's stationery, to type out and send to Guinness. "It was addressed to

Guinness PLC and said 'to consultancy fees regarding European acquisitions'," he said. The banker said he assumed it was in Sir Jack's handwriting. But he said it was not what he was expecting.

Dr Tiefenthaler said when the DTI inquiry was announced Sir Jack assured him there was nothing to worry about. It was aimed at Ivan Boesky, a Wall Street arbitrator and a Guinness supporter.

On December 23, Sir Jack "in a subtle and very nice way" said "whether we could not put in writing the things we had discussed over all those months."

It is alleged an illegal share support operation was mounted to win the Distillers bid with illicit indemnities and success fees being paid to supporters.

Sir Jack, aged 74; Mr Ernest Saunders, aged 54, the former Guinness chairman; Mr Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Heron Corporation chairman; and Mr Anthony Parnes, aged 44, stockbroker, variously deny 24 counts on the indictment including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	Dixyn Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	
2	United Newspapers (m)	Newspapers, Pub	
3	Tibet & Bryson	Transport	
4	Abbey National (m)	Banks, Discount	
5	Bassens Prod	Industrials E-K	
6	Colony	Building, Roads	
7	Arlon	Electricals	
8	Bullough	Industrials A-D	
9	IMI (m)	Industrials E-K	
10	KMC Op (m)	Industrials S-Z	
11	Green Eng	Industrials A-D	
12	Advent	Industrials A-D	
13	Agcon Computers	Electricals	
14	Beaufort	Industrials A-D	
15	PS Oost	Mining	
16	Preac	Electricals	
17	Wates	Property	
18	T & N (m)	Industrials S-Z	
19	Polly Peck (m)	Foods	
20	Scholar Gap	Electricals	
21	Brown Shipley	Banks, Discount	
22	Shoring Ind	Industrials S-Z	
23	Leeds Wap Op	Industrials L-R	
24	Melcor	Property	
25	St Land (m)	Leisure	
26	Metco	Oil/Gas	
27	Entropic (m)	Electricals	
28	Forrest (m)	Banks, Discount	
29	Stead Chart (m)	Banks, Discount	
30	Whitford 'A' (m)	Breweries	
31	Charles Int	Industrials A-D	
32	Body Shop	Drapery, Stores	
33	Chancery	Banks, Discount	
34	Trustline Pl (m)	Hotels, Caterers	
35	Pearson (m)	Newspapers, Pub	
36	Roatham	Property	
37	Amstrad (m)	Electricals	
38	Rechem	Industrials L-R	
39	Dorcon	Industrials A-D	
40	Linco Group	Transport	
41	Lions Thompson	Insurance	
42	Sturtevant J (m)	Foods	
43	Ence	Electricals	
44	Blackleys	Building, Roads	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was shared by five people yesterday. The winners were Mrs Mary Hildon of Putney, London SW15; Mr Richard Williams of Bath, Avon; Mr Norman Bellwood of South Croydon, Surrey; Mr Stephen Harris of Croydon, Surrey and Miss Janet Bailey of Formby, Merseyside.

BRITISH FUNDS

Fund	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Short	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Short	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Short	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

UNDATED

Short	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

INDEX-LINKED

Short	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Short	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end April 6. Contango day April 9. Settlement day April 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (m) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 25)

Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

Portfolio

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for +204 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
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Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

Company	Low	High	Mid	Div	Yield
...

© Ex dividend, c Cum dividend, k Cum stock split, e Ex stock split, a Ex at any time or more of above, a Ex at any time, 1) Monday, 2) Tuesday, 3) Wednesday, 4) Thursday, 5) Friday.

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

15 Finance Has 15%		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %					
Lead Bank: 74%		Currency	7 day	3 mth	6 mth	9 mth	12 mth
14-14%		Dollar:	5 1/2-6	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		£:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		Deutsche:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		French:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		Swiss:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		Italian:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		Spanish:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		Yen:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
14-14%		Other:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4

THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

LONDON POKE				LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
		AMT Futures		Official prices/previous day		Rendell Wolff	
		Cont		(\$/tonnes)		3 month	
						Vol	
COCOA		AMT Futures					
Jul 78/77 LT		Cont					
Jul 78/75 FT		Nov 82/81					
Jul 78/73 FT		Nov 82/81					
Sep 80-80/7		Nov 82/81					
Nov 82-82/7		Nov 82/81					
Nov 82/77 LT		Nov 82/81					
Nov 82/75 FT		Nov 82/81					
Nov 82/73 FT		Nov 82/81					
Nov 82-80/5		Nov 82/81					

BUSINESS

Edited by Lindsay Cook

FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY MARCH 31 1990

BES blues

The number of investors attracted to Business Expansion Schemes this year has contracted leaving some projects without enough money to go ahead. But the industry still hopes for a rush of investors before next Thursday Page 24

Cold comfort

Changes to the rules governing cold calling have been proposed by an SIB committee. If they go ahead we can expect many more calls Page 25

Home tax

Couples can avoid their home being liable to inheritance tax without losing the use of the property. By becoming tenants in common of their homes, couples with houses worth more than £128,000 can cut or reduce the tax. Page 26

Image inquiry

Banks are taking their clipboards into streets and homes to find out how their customers see them Page 27

Societies rule

As building societies merge so do their rule books. The changes may be of concern to homebuyers in arrears but they may have difficulty in obtaining the rules Page 28



GER Page 29

Garston waiting continues

By Neil Bennett

MORE than two months after the Garston Amburst Investor Protection Group was formed, investors in the collapsed life assurance broker are still trying to recover their money.

The group has held lengthy talks on compensation with Target, the life assurance offshoot of the TSB Group, which authorized Garston to sell its products. But so far it has been unable to secure anything except an offer to meet legal fees for some of the group's members. This is despite encouraging letters from Sir Nicholas Goodison, the TSB chairman.

Target has also paid two interest instalments on a Garston policy to a lady aged 94 threatened with eviction from her nursing home.

The protection group has 125 members of the 300 it believes lost money in the collapse. The members have lost more than £3 million between them. Last week, two Garston Amburst directors were charged with conspiracy to defraud.

TSB turns a new chapter in passbooks

By Margaret Dibben

THE TSB wants to revitalize an old banking favourite — the passbook — but designed for use in cash machines. Before the final decision, the bank is bringing out a new savings account next month with the option of plastic cards or passbooks.

The cards will be usable in cash machines immediately and the passbooks will in time, if TSB decides to go ahead with new-style automated teller machines. A TSB spokesman said: "Although it will be called a passbook, which has certain connotations of being down-market and

not "with it," we think if it is presented in a modern way conveying convenience and usefulness, it could possibly compete with cash cards."

For years banks have tried to woo customers away from passbooks and on to the cheaper technology of plastic cards. But customers have been slow to change. Although the precise details have still to be finalized, it is known that the new TSB savings account will be an instant-access tiered account.

Explaining the bank's rekindled interest in old-fashioned passbooks, he said: "The passbook is not passé. There is a large market for an

updated form. We might do some pilots to test customer reactions in the late summer."

Changing TSB's existing ATMs only requires adapting the standard machines already installed. But he added: "It is actually quite complex and expensive because you need to print in the passbook as well as read information to update the balance."

Customers would be able to pay money in, make withdrawals and update their balances through the cash machine with their passbooks although the ATM probably will not be able to turn pages.

Although passbooks are particu-

larly liked by older people, the TSB would aim the new system at the young. The spokesman said: "The market, as we see it, is at the youth end where there is the question of design and of convenience. We believe the passbook is a form of on-line banking as you always have your balance and can always check how much you have in your account in a simple and fairly stylish way, particularly if you can introduce the whole thing into a machine."

TSB has taken the idea from the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, which a year ago introduced machines in Hongkong which can read pass-

books. They now have 247 in place with plans to install them in all the bank's Hongkong branches.

A spokesman for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank said: "Cheques have never been a big thing in Hongkong and many people have passbooks in different currencies. We call the new machines Copus — computer operated passbook updating terminals. They are like a building society passbook which you feed into the machine."

The bank keeps an electronic record as well for when the customer withdraws money over the counter or in case the passbook is lost.

Rivals to sell Halifax Standard Life trusts

By Lindsay Cook

UNIT trusts and personal equity plans bearing the name of the Halifax Building Society should be on sale through the branches of rival building societies and independent financial advisers such as National Westminster Bank within months.

The largest building society announced this week that it has established a company jointly with Standard Life, the largest mutual insurance company and unit trust group.

Halifax Standard Life products will be available through the Halifax's 745 branches and 688 estate agency offices. Standard Life tied agents and independent financial advisers such as the Yorkshire Building Society.

The size and investment performance of Standard Life has made it one of the main beneficiaries of the Financial Services Act, which requires independent financial salesmen to provide best advice to

clients. Standard Life is number one for endowment sales and number two in the pensions market.

It only began selling unit trusts to the public five years ago and more than 50 per cent of the £5 billion it has invested in unit trusts has come from institutional clients. The joint venture is intended to bring its unit trusts to the direct attention of investors as well as brokers and advisers. It hopes the new company will allow it to compete with high street names like M&G and Save & Prosper on their own ground.

National Westminster Bank, the largest independent, already sells Standard Life products through its branches and expects to sell the Halifax Standard Life unit trusts and peeps.

A spokesman said: "If it was the right product for the client in investment terms we would sell it." He continued that best advice did not only relate to

performance but also to service.

At the Yorkshire Building Society, a spokesman said: "We would be quite happy to sell Halifax Standard Life products. If it happens to be the right thing for that person we would have no hesitation."

Mr Stephen Spilsbury, general manager of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society said it did not currently sell Standard Life products because of the company's reliance on terminal bonuses. But he added: "If the Halifax Standard Life unit trusts are the best products we would sell them."

Mr Jim Birrell, the chief executive of the Halifax, said: "It would be surprising if these products were not recommended by all independent advisers at one time or another."

The society and Standard Life were encouraged by the

successful Marks and Spencer launch into unit trusts in 1988, which relied largely on the company's name to attract new investors to unit trusts. They are likely to concentrate on similar middle of the road, safer type of funds.

The first product is expected to be a personal equity plan, which has the advantage of being tax-free. Since July last year the Halifax has accepted Peps as a method of paying for mortgages.

Mr Birrell said: "The new products will be part of a more sophisticated investment market. They are part of our policy of offering a broader range to Halifax investors."

"We still hold firmly that everybody should have as first base an immediate access or short-term deposit account. We are developing the second and third bases."

"We hope a lot of the money invested will be new money. Some will be part of



"Broader range": Jim Birrell, Halifax chief executive

the inheritance factor." Announcing profits for the society of £534 million in the year ending January 1990, Mr Birrell said it would be launching a high income fund shortly. This is likely to take the form of a cash unit trust, which could invest partly in the Halifax. Such funds allow non-taxpayers to claim back

Cloudy outlook for investors in Australian market

By Rodney Hobson

AUSTRALIA'S Labour government started its fourth term this week — with few words of comfort for investors in Australian unit trusts. The value of the trusts has fallen steadily for years, and the picture is unlikely to change for some time, according to the latest economic forecast.

A further rise in interest rates, a weaker Australian dollar and a fall in export values are just some of the predictions to follow the election. Australian commodity export prices are expected to show a fall for the 12 months to June 1990, according to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

The dollar is projected to fall 4 per cent in the same period, and the balance of payments deficit is running at a record 5 per cent of gross domestic product.

The government has pledged to bring interest rates down from their current 19

per cent, but economists say a short-term rise is more likely.

The most remarkable performance — for the wrong reason — has been Target Australian, which in sterling terms stands at less than a quarter of its value five years ago according to figures collated by Micropal, the investment statistics group. An investment as recently as March 1987 is worth only 28 per cent of its original value now.

Two other Australian funds are worth less today than they were five years ago; Gartmore Australian, now at 79 per cent of its value on March 1, 1985, and MIM Britannia Australian Growth, worth 57 per cent. Both stand at less than half their March 1987 value.

Three funds have come through relatively unscathed: NM Australian, at 262 per cent of the 1985 level, Schroder Australian at 191 per cent and Henderson Australian at 174 per cent.

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**Planned Savings* Survey of new contributions, 20 years, with-profits personal pensions - July 1989.



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FAMILY MONEY

End of season rush for BES investors

Jon Ashworth

Expansion Schemes have fallen by the wayside while others are being expanded

The latest season of Business Expansion Schemes ends next week with most issues struggling to raise even their minimum subscriptions.

High fliers like Airways Homes have attracted most of the money, leaving the rest to pick up what they can.

Airways Homes IV was hurriedly launched last week, after the third issue attracted £5 million in less than two weeks. Airways III and IV are both investing in homes near Gatwick to let mainly to British Airways employees. The two earlier issues invested near Heathrow.

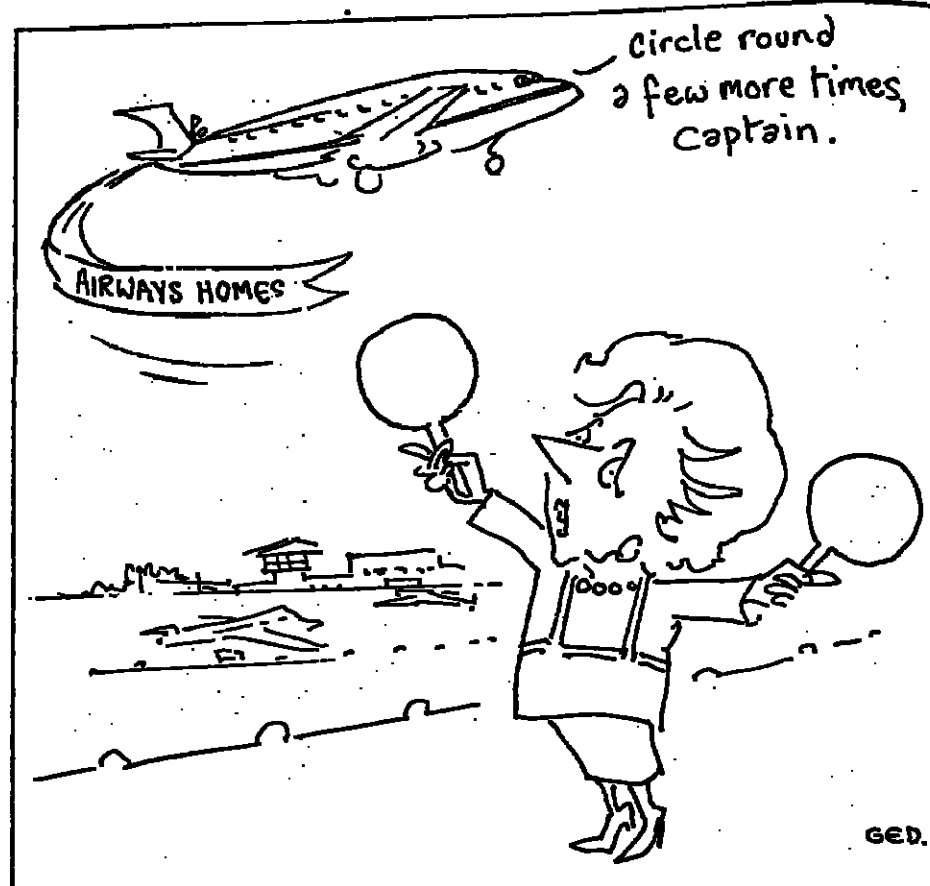
A variety of issues have raised over £120 million and as much as another £50 million may flood in by Thursday. But analysts agree that the final total will be well short of the £350 million raised last season.

Mr John Spiers, editor of BES Investment, said he expected this season's total to be nearer £140 million — largely in line with earlier BES years.

Mr Spiers said one concern this season was the large number of issues going ahead with low levels of subscription. If less cash was raised, costs could proportionately be higher and there would be less capital for development.

He said it was possible investors would look back on the present season in a year's time and feel they had missed a good buying opportunity. Housing prices are low.

Mr John Harrison, consulting editor of BES Magazine, said as much as £175 million



may be raised for the season as a whole.

He said last season's total of £350 million had been inflated by special factors.

An extra £100 million had been raised from investors "carrying back" to the previous tax year, while another £100 had been invested in close company Assured Tenancies which are no longer available.

High interest rates were having an effect, although it is not uncommon for investors to wait right up until the end of the tax year before signing their cheques.

The season has been dominated by assured tenancies, but the number of general BES issues has also risen. Mr Harrison gave a warning that about 20 of the 40 non-assured tenancies on offer should be avoided.

Mr Anthony Yadaroff of

Best BES Advice blamed political uncertainties for the downturn.

He said investors were reluctant to lock themselves in for five years while the outcome of the next general election remained uncertain.

Specialist issues, including Neill Clerk's Cask & Tun Inns and Dairy Harvest, were well below their minimum subscriptions last week.

Cask & Tun, which has a minimum of £300,000, had raised just £35,000 by March 22.

Dairy Harvest has a lower minimum of £175,000, but had only raised £20,050 in the same period.

A decision as to whether they should go ahead is expected to be made early next week.

Several issues have been cancelled, including Eastleigh Homes from Matrix Securities, and Independent Living from Capital Ventures. Brown Shipley, the broker, is not proceeding with Castleton Retirement Homes, and Shire Trust has cancelled its Property Portfolio Fund.

The top performers this season include Airways Homes, Artesian II and First Stansted, all of which have been fully subscribed. Kensington Developments, sponsored by Chancery, had raised over £425 million by last week.

A new guide to the Business Expansion Scheme rules for investors and companies has been published by Investment and Tax Planning Services. It looks at the effects of capital gains tax and inheritance tax, and explains how a company should set about raising BES finance. The guide costs £22.50. Details are available on 01-491 0739.

BRIEFINGS

Bradford & Bingley has launched a new savings account to encourage investment ahead of the arrival of the Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts next year. The Special Issue Flexible Savings Account will pay a top rate of interest of 11.25 per cent — net of tax — to investors who convert their accounts to Tessa.

The new tax-exempt accounts will pay interest gross once they are introduced in January. Savers can invest from £50 to £3,000 in the Bradford & Bingley account, and will gain a 3 per cent bonus if they switch to a Tessa.

In a similar vein, the Yorkshire Building Society is launching an investment bond to encourage regular savings.

The ASSET bond, available from Monday, will pay net interest of 11 per cent on an investment of between £1,800 and £9,000. A bonus of 1 per cent will be paid on contributions for customers who open a Tessa with the Yorkshire next year. The bonus will only apply to accounts opened by June 1. No withdrawals are permitted before the end of the year.

Girobank has extended its 24-hour telephone banking service to 30,000 more customers in the South-east. The DIALOG service, which is now available to more than 55,000 customers, provides banking details and other information. The service is voice-activated. Girobank's Telecare service, which deals with more general queries, receives more than 100,000 calls a week.

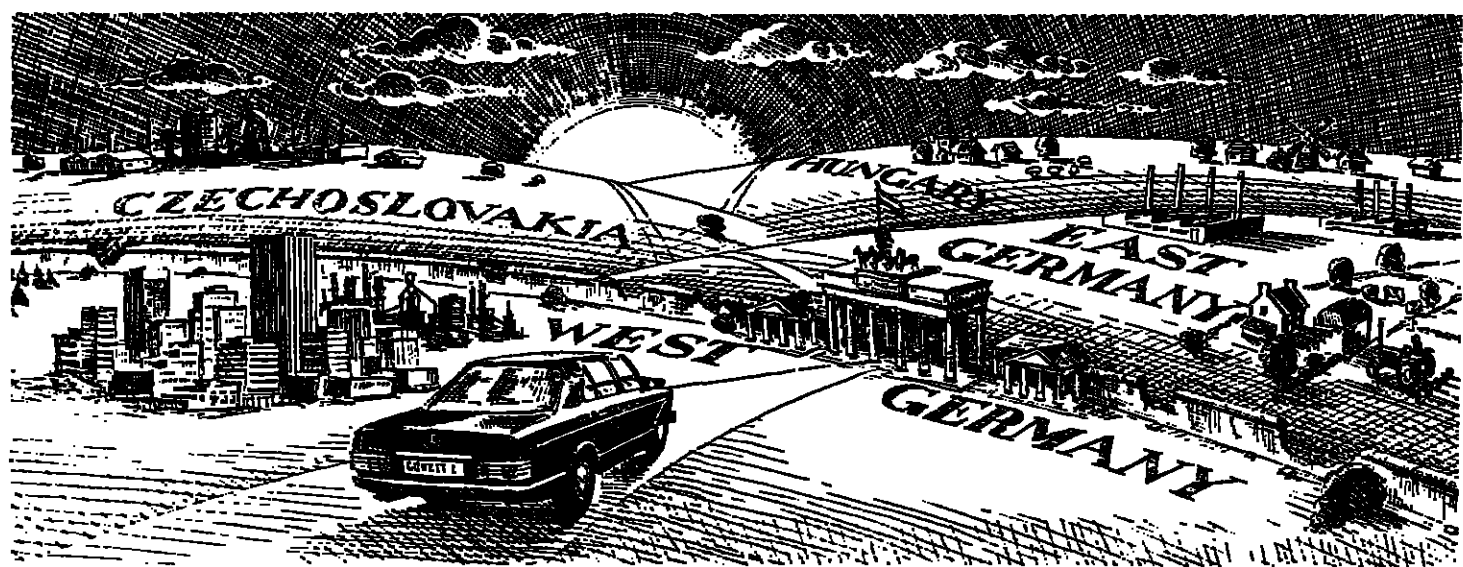
New Servicecards with a higher cheque limit of £250 will be available to NatWest customers from April 24. The cards, which allow Switch payments, cash machine withdrawals, and cheque guarantees, will be available on application. The higher cheque limit will be available to Gold Plus Service customers. Servicecard 100 will be available to homeowners earning £20,000 a year. The present cheque guarantee limit is £50.

The service is voice-activated. Girobank's Telecare service, which deals with more general queries, receives more than 100,000 calls a week.

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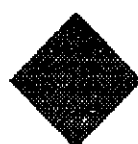
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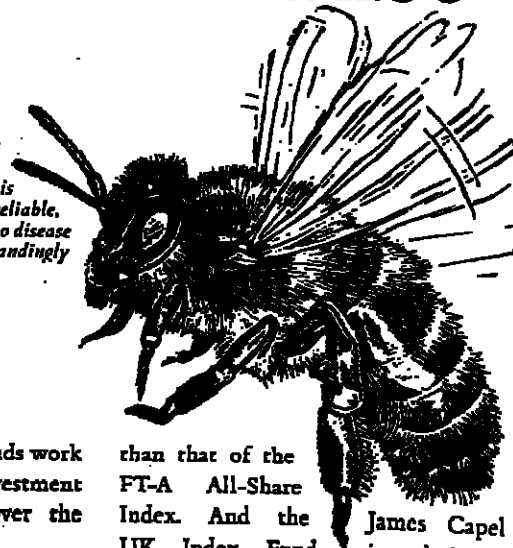


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FAMILY MONEY

Lindsay Cook looks at a plan to allow salesmen a foot in the door

SIB group seeks views on cold-calling investors

THE public can expect more unsolicited telephone calls and visits from investment salesmen if proposals from a Securities and Investments Board committee are adopted. And they may have to pay more for their investments into the bargain.

The retail review committee, comprising members of the self-regulatory organizations, wants brokers and investment companies to be able to sell investment trust savings schemes and personal equity plans by unsolicited telephone calls and visits.

But for investment trust schemes to qualify they must allow investors a cooling-off period after agreeing to invest and in most cases change their rules to allow daily dealing.

The board wants to continue the ban on the cold calling of split capital funds and venture capital trusts as these are more complex and involve greater risk.

About 75 per cent of the 90 to 95 trusts available through savings schemes should be able to qualify.

A spokeswoman for the Association of Investment Trust Companies said it welcomed the proposals but issued a warning that investors' costs will rise.

"Providing cooling-off periods and changing schemes so that investors can sell every day instead of once a week will add to the costs, but they should still provide better value compared with life assurance products."

Under the proposals, it would be possible for investment trusts to market their own schemes by telephone.

The report also confirms that the savings schemes should be allowed to sell directly through advertisements as long as these included product details.

At present, they are allowed to advertise, under transitional rules, but do not have to include details. Many voluntarily do so.

Mr Derek Fellows, the executive director of the SIB and chairman of the committee,



Bob Ferguson (left), Derek Fellows (centre) and Richard Cockcroft of Fimbra

said the change is intended to bring investment trust schemes and share Peps into line with unit trusts. He said: "But we don't want this to become a facility for share-pushing over the doorstep."

Currently, a financial adviser might not be able to suggest the most suitable product to a client, who had first been contacted by an unsolicited telephone call. For example, an investor might benefit from sheltering £5,000 in a share Pep but a broker would only be able to suggest a unit trust with an annual investment limit of £3,000.

The committee suggested two options. One would be to confine unsolicited calls and subsequent transactions to comparatively "safe" diversified investments and investment agreements. The other would give greater latitude and would not require diversification but would still ban cold-calling of highly volatile products.

Brokers wanting to provide personal advisory and discretionary services would be

confined to contacting by telephone as this was regarded as less intrusive than doorstep visits. The board would suggest the telephone call was used to seek an appointment. At the meeting, the salesman would find out about the client and explain the risks of the investments.

A customer agreement could then be sent to the client and after it was signed and returned the service could begin.

The committee is concerned that the complexity of many products makes it difficult for investors to make an informed assessment of the risks and returns.

It proposes that a working party should look into the feasibility of developing measures of riskiness, past performance, and charges and expenses to enable comparisons to be made between different investments.

The committee also wants to make sure that performance claims are factual, compare like with like and avoid the misleading use of rankings

and other comparisons. "It is the responsibility of the regulatory authorities to take steps to reduce the danger that unsophisticated investors will be persuaded by promotional material or personal advice to commit themselves to transactions which they would not consider if they had a better grasp of the financial implications."

It is intended to set up a working party to simplify the information.

Comments are invited on the recommendations by June 29. The committee will then produce a further consultative document. This should be published this year and the earliest the proposals could be implemented would be the turn of the year.

Members of self-regulatory organizations should send their comments to their organizations. The public and other interested parties should write to Mr Bob Ferguson, Securities and Investments Board, 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London EC3V 3NL.

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Fidelity INVESTMENTS

Popular Peps are pulling in money at record levels

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS have put hundreds of millions of pounds into personal equity plans this month, in a last-minute rush to invest before the end of the tax year. Top providers, such as MIM Britannia and M&G have seen record levels of business, with signs that Peps are appealing to a wider audience.

Mr John Spiers, editor of *Best Pep Advice*, said that new business for this financial year was likely to reach more than £1 billion. Next year, the amount could climb again to £1.5 billion.

The most successful group in terms of sales is likely to be MIM Britannia, which attracted £130 million from investors last year. A spokesman said that it was on course for another very good year, although levels of investment since January would not be revealed until after the end of the tax year.

Other top performers include Lloyds Bank, Midland and M&G, which have taken close to £100 million between them since the start of the year.

Mr Derek Booker, manager of Lloyds' Pep centre, said that the year had been "an absolute bonanza" for sales. Business had reached unprecedented levels in the past few weeks, exceeding even December, when the ending of old-style Peps saw a late rush.

More than £35 million has been invested in Lloyds' Peps in the past three months. In 1989, more than £100 million was invested, and £250 million has been attracted since January 1987. The average Pep investment is £4,000.

M&G's unit trust-only Pep



Bateman: busy times at Fidelity with Peps

has proved popular since its launch last June. By this week, more than £95 million had been invested, and sales should top £100 million by April 5, when the tax year ends. M&G is no longer accepting applications for this year from intermediaries, because of the need for a seven-day "cooling-off" period to allow clients to mull over the deal. Direct applications will be accepted until April 5.

The number of new M&G accounts opened since June 1989 is expected to top 30,000, and £20 million has been received in new investment in the past month alone.

Fidelity has attracted £68 million in new Pep investment since last June. Mr Barry Bateman, managing director, said that most of the business had been seen in the past six weeks. About £130 million has been invested in Fidelity Peps since they were introduced.

Save & Prosper, with takings of £25 million in new Pep investment this month, was also confident of a good last-minute response.

Guardian investors should boost balances for bonus

PEOPLE who have investments with the Guardian Building Society who have made withdrawals since October 12 have just two weeks left to take advantage of a maximum bonus scheme (writes Lindsay Cook).

The investors must restore their balances to secure the highest possible bonus when the society merges with the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. The merger is planned to

take place on for Easter Monday, April 16, and investors will receive a 4 per cent bonus.

This will be either 4 per cent of their balance on October 12 or 4 per cent of that on April 16, whichever is lower.

This means investors who have made substantial withdrawals may be disappointed with their bonus, which will be paid net of basic rate tax.

The society estimated that the average investor would receive a bonus of £520.

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

Index	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+8	+8	+2	+5	+6		
2	+5	+4	+3	+1	+1		
3	+7	+5	+3	+3	+2		
4	+9	+7	+1	+5	+4		
5	+6	+6	+5	+2	+1		
6	+5	+5	+2	+3	+2		
7	+7	+4	+2	+5	+5		
8	+8	+7	+1	+4	+4		
9	+6	+5	+5	+3	+3		
10	+5	+3	+2	+6	+3		
11	+5	+3	+3	+5	+3		
12	+7	+8	+3	+2	+3		
13	+7	+5	+3	+5	+5		
14	+4	+3	+3	+2	+3		
15	+7	+6	+1	+3	+5		
16	+7	+4	+4	+2	+1		
17	+8	+8	+2	+5	+5		
18	+5	+4	+3	+2	+2		
19	+5	+3	+2	+2	+1		
20	+8	+8	+1	+4	+6		
21	+6	+5	+4	+3	+2		
22	+6	+4	+1	+1	+2		
23	+7	+5	+1	+6	+4		
24	+4	+3	+1	+1	+1		
25	+7	+6	+2	+3	+5		
26	+8	+5	+3	+4	+1		
27	+8	+4	+1	+7	+3		
28	+5	+4	+2	+3	+2		
29	+7	+7	+1	+3	+7		
30	+6	+5	+2	+2	+2		
31	+5	+5	+2	+1			
32	+5	+5	+1	+3	+3		
33	+6	+4	+2	+6	+4		
34	+7	+6	+1	+3	+4		
35	+9	+7	+1	+4	+4		
36	+6	+4	+2	+5	+3		
37	+4	+3	+2	+1	+1		
38	+5	+3	+1	+8	+3		
39	+8	+4	+4	+4	+2		
40	+5	+3	+2	+6	+3		
41	+8	+7	+1	+3	+5		
42	+8	+5	+3	+4	+3		
43	+5	+3	+2	+5	+5		
44	+5	+4	+3	+2	+3		

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It offers significant advantages for the astute investor.

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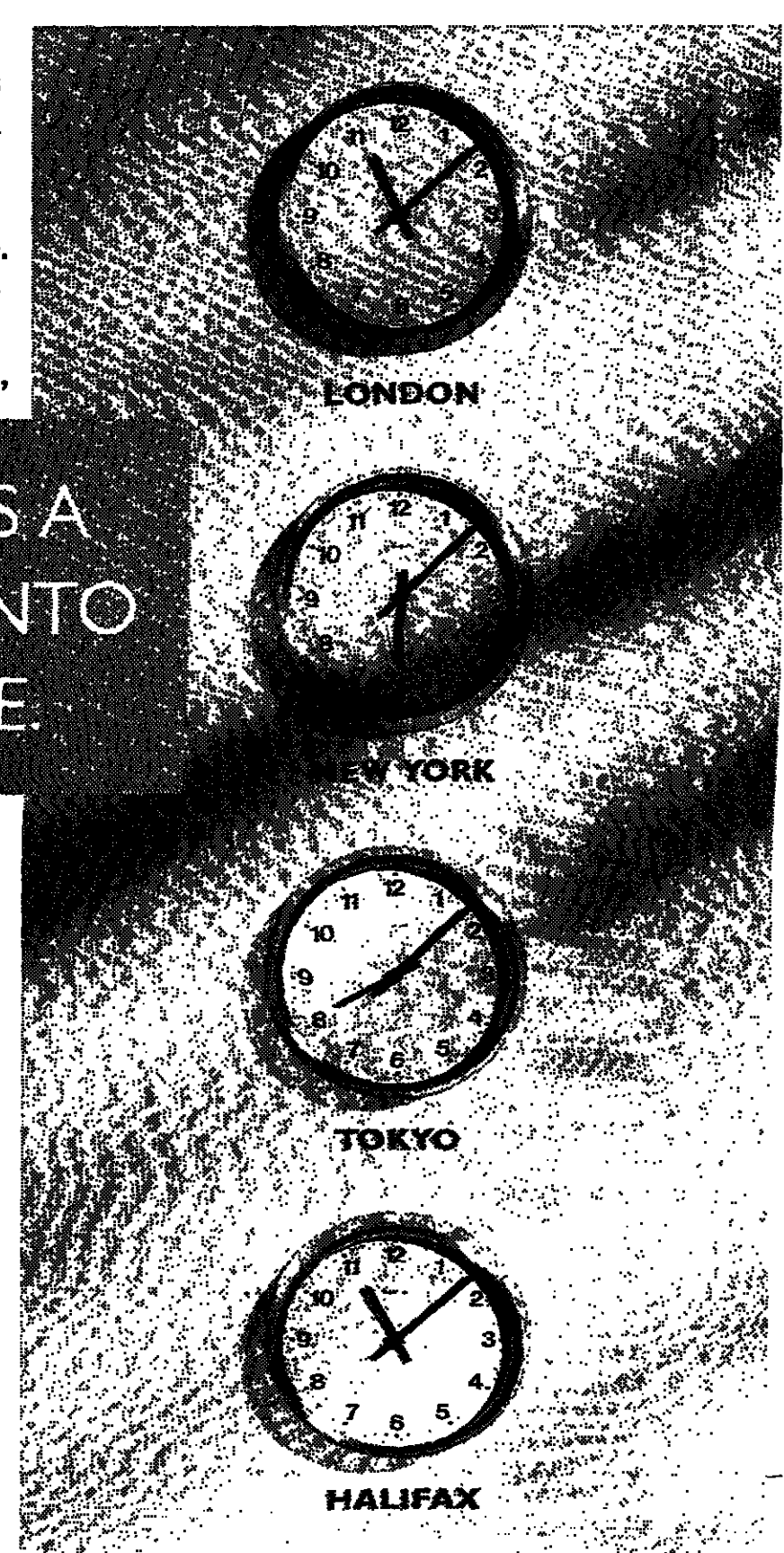
which can make this a very tax-efficient investment. Especially with independent taxation for husbands and wives being introduced on April 6th.

Then there's the interest rate. Rates are set to reflect money market conditions (you can check the going rate at Halifax branches) which means that there's the potential for a very high return indeed.

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If you'd like to talk more about Time Deposits, why not call into your nearest Halifax branch? It's your open door to a very attractive return.



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NATIONAL SAVINGS

FAMILY MONEY

Divide and equalize to leave more afore ye go

Margaret Dibben
outlines several
ways of minimizing
inheritance tax
on a family home

PAYING inheritance tax on the family home upsets a lot of people, especially if they do not realize there can be a way round it.

The new starting point for inheritance tax, announced in the Budget, is £128,000 worth of assets. If all your assets total less than this, there is no tax to pay. But, because houses are so valuable, many people are caught if they have not planned ahead.

The first step in minimizing inheritance tax is for husbands and wives to make sure their assets are divided equally between them.

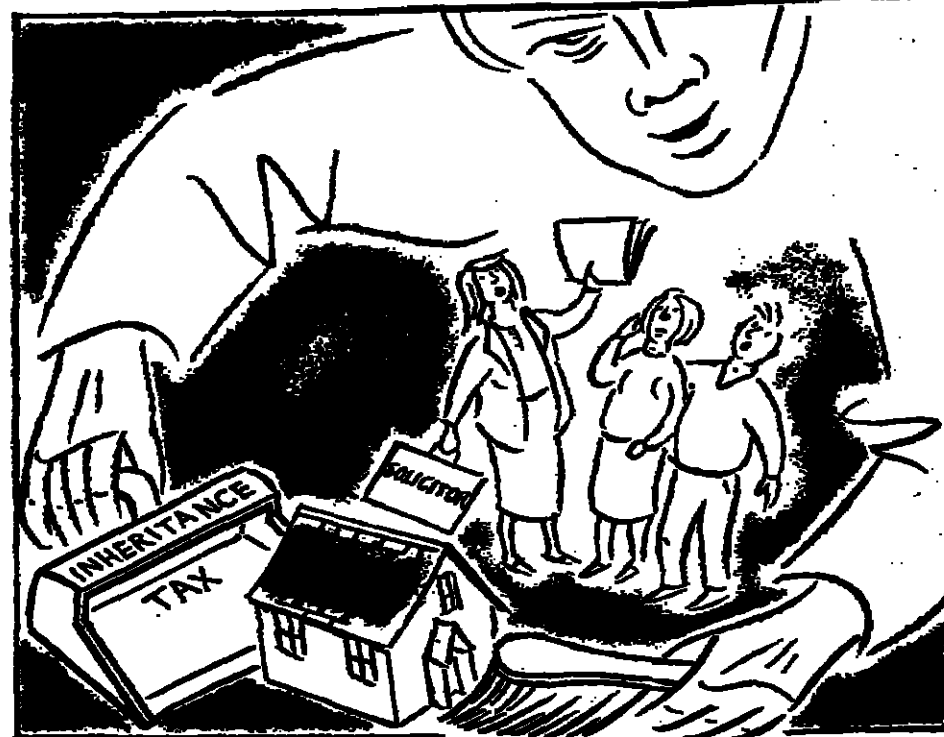
If they knew which partner was going to die first, they could make the most effective arrangements. But, as this is not usually possible, it is best to divide possessions in half — what accountants call "equalizing" estates.

If all the money is in the husband's name, the wife would not be using her tax-free band of £128,000. Then, if she inherited all her husband's assets, her own estate when she dies will be that much larger and therefore more likely to attract inheritance tax.

Gifts can be made during your lifetime and, provided the giver survives for another seven years, there is no tax to pay. From three years the tax bill is reduced on a sliding scale.

Husbands and wives never have to pay tax on anything they leave to each other. But, when inheritance tax is due, provided they trust their heirs a couple can take steps to minimize the bill.

First, if the home is in one name, they should put it into



both names. Then, in the eyes of the law, they are "joint tenants".

This has nothing to do with paying rent; it means that, when one dies, the other automatically inherits the house regardless of what is in the will. This gives the surviving spouse — most often the wife — total security because she cannot be left homeless.

To cut the inheritance tax bill, the ownership needs to be changed to "tenants in common". This can be done by writing a letter to each other or asking a solicitor to draw up a document.

In their wills, each spouse leaves his or her share of the house to their children, however they want it passed on, and not to each other. This must be clearly stated in the will. The couple can own the house in unequal shares if they prefer.

But they cannot simply give the house away in their lifetime and continue living there to avoid inheritance tax, unless they pay rent, because they would still have an interest in the house — the taxman calls this a "gift with reservation" — and there would be full inheritance tax to pay at death.

The son or daughter inheriting the estate may have to pay inheritance tax if the deceased parent's estate still exceeds £128,000. But if it falls below, as is more likely since they are only inheriting half the value of the house, there is no tax to pay.

If an inheritance tax bill is payable, beneficiaries can have an awkward time sorting out the money.

The Probate Registry cannot issue a grant of representation without tax being assessed and paid, or at least most of it paid.

However, there is some relief for people inheriting a house. Otherwise there could

be a large inheritance tax bill to be paid before the house is theirs to sell, and certainly before they have the opportunity to put it on the market.

When filing accounts with the probate office the tax has to be paid on the personal estate, such as bank and building society accounts, but not on property and unquoted shares, until the date the tax is deemed due by the Inland Revenue. This falls six months after the end of the month in which the death occurred.

To minimize the difficulty of meeting a substantial inheritance tax bill, the Inland Revenue allows people up to 10 years to pay, but only on tax due on houses and shares in unquoted companies.

Interest is charged on delayed payments at a special rate, currently 11 per cent, compared with the 13 per cent the Revenue charges on other late payments of tax.

WHEN THE TAXMAN SPLITS YOU UP FROM YOUR WIFE, HERE'S SOMETHING YOU MIGHT FIND ATTRACTIVE.

From April 6th, all married women will be taxed independently. Couples can take advantage of this move if the husband opens an investment account in his wife's name with Britannia Building Society (Isle of Man) Limited.

Here your savings will earn a higher rate of return, as interest is paid gross (i.e. U.K. income tax is not deducted).

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MANX GOLD	upto £10,000	13.40%
MANXTWELVE	min. inv. £5,000	14.15%
	min. inv. £15,000	15.55%

Please remember that as a U.K. taxpayer, you must declare any interest earned

interest according to your balance with no penalties for instant access. And the Manx Twelve accounts allow instant access on balances that remain above £10,000. (Under this figure a penalty equivalent to 60 days loss of interest applies).

For further information, fill in the coupon. You'll find it's the best way to put more interest into your marriage.

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Breathing space assured for the old — at a price



Pine view: Retirement Assured's flats for the elderly at Sefton Hall, Dawlish, Devon

By Jon Ashworth

A SCHEME which allows elderly people to move into a retirement flat while they try to sell their home could leave them facing a crippling bill.

The "rent now, pay later" scheme from Retirement Assured, which specializes in retirement homes, is designed for elderly home-owners who have been unable to sell their property, but wish to move into a smaller apartment.

Through the scheme, they can leave their property on the market for up to two years without paying any rent on the retirement home in the meantime.

The company has introduced the deferred-rental scheme on a handful of apartments built by McCarthy & Stone, the retirement home specialists.

If the postponed rental is settled within 12 months, no interest is payable. If the rent is rolled-up for more than a year, interest of 12 per cent is charged on the whole amount.

Mr Chuck Stone, Retirement Assured's general man-

ager, said the scheme gave elderly people a way of moving into sheltered accommodation without having to sell their home first. It gave them a breathing space of two years in which to find a buyer.

The cost of renting a one-bedroom apartment ranges from £60 a week in the Wirral to £121 in Bournemouth. An apartment in Chipping Sodbury, in the Cotswolds, would cost £97.70 a week, together with weekly ground rent and charges of £25.

Over two years, the final bill for rent and interest would be close to £12,000. The rent would rise by about 10 per cent after the first year.

In addition the homeowner faces the prospect of paying the poll tax twice — once on the rented home, and a second time on the home which is up for sale.

In some cases the charge on the empty home could be double the personal community charge and might cost an elderly couple hundreds more pounds a year.

No poll tax would be pay-

able on the empty property for the first three months. Retirement Assured would pay the tax on the empty home for the next three months, but the homeowner would face two sets of bills from then on.

Insuring an empty property can also pose problems. Once a home has been left unfurnished or unoccupied for over a month, the level of cover on building and contents cover can be curtailed dramatically, even though premiums stay the same. Home and contents insurance costs an average of £200 per household per year.

If the property has not been sold after two years, it would be repossessed by Retirement Assured to be sold as quickly as possible. The surplus would go to the original owners once rental, interest and charges had been taken off.

Mr Stone said that the time limit was an incentive to participants to sell properties quickly. "We will be stressing to people who take up this scheme to be very sensible about the price they are asking for their property. The joy of dealing with retired people is that they do take their time and take these things very seriously."

Apartments are available in Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, the Cotswolds and The Wirral. Some of them are next to BUPA residential and nursing homes which can provide dining and extra care facilities if required. This is likely to cost at least another £10 a week, before meals and extras.

Age Concern, one of Britain's leading charities for the elderly, said it welcomed any schemes which gave more choice to elderly people. But it said it was important to stress the implications of insurance and the poll tax along with any time limits.

"Incentive to sell": Chuck Stone of Retirement Assured

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FAMILY MONEY

Lindsay Cook uncovers some surprising results from bank research

Lloyds purrs past in a Jaguar but NatWest has only a 2CV

BANKS are desperate to find out more about their customers. After years of seeming to ignore their wishes about opening hours, interest on current accounts, cheque guarantees, cards and clarity of charges, competition is forcing them to ask what we want.

The National Westminster has commissioned a series of surveys by Gallup into savings habits. The Abbey National is using MORI to find out how we will pay poll tax and its own researchers are finding out what more customers want from cheque accounts. Midland visits teenagers at home to find out what they want from a bank, while Lloyds has been asking people to state which model of car they identify with which bank.

While some of the questions may seem a little frivolous, there is a serious reason for finding out more about customers' attitudes. And it is not only to accurately target them for new investment products.

For every customer who writes and complains to a bank, there are 16 equally unhappy customers who will each disaffect a further 26 people, according to US research, which is quoted by the Banking Information Service.

A BIS official said: "Banks are, therefore, concerned to find out what might be upsetting their customers and putting it right before the ripple effect gets to them."

At Midland Bank, Mr Kevin Gavaghan said: "We have to ask people what they want and how the service can be changed or improved to suit them as they do not tell us until it is too late." He said that First Direct, the tele-



phone banking subsidiary of Midland, was the result of research which showed that nearly 20 per cent of people had not visited their bank in the previous month.

Its Livecash account followed discussions with young people in their homes. "We use people who can talk to the young without being patronizing and find out what they really want. It is still the case that 70 per cent of bank customers remain with their first bank."

Last year, the bank's share of the youth market increased by 10 per cent and it opened 300,000 Livecash accounts.

National Westminster has commissioned research on attitudes to the Budget, which will be published next month. Mr Kevin Jennings, the director of retail banking services at

NetWest, said that it wants to know how the public has received the new tax-exempt accounts which will be launched in January.

The bank had a rolling survey on service and image. Concern about errors on standing orders had shown up as a "major source of irritation" through this and the bank had improved its checking system as a result.

The Abbey National will next month publish the results of its second personal finance survey. This will analyse how people plan to pay for their poll tax.

In addition the bank, which revealed last October that on average people carry £19.20 in cash and that three in five people would prefer to buy environmentally products even if they cost more, carries

out awareness research and tries to evaluate the general level of satisfaction amongst customers continually.

Saturday afternoon opening in selected branches followed research and the reduction of the clearing time for cheques paid into the bank's two current accounts from seven days to four days, which was announced this week, had also cropped up in the regular telephone surveys of current customers.

"Seven day clearing has been mentioned as a drawback but the biggest single worry is the length of time customers have to wait in branches."

Barclays, which has told its 1.5 million customers that it plans to have information on each of them available through all branches unless they object, said the decision

was taken as a result of market research last year.

Lloyds Bank said that research had shown that customers opening accounts actually liked filling out questionnaires.

The spokesman said that there were also legislative reasons to collect detailed financial information.

"General market research showed that when customers go into a bank to open an account they feel short changed if they don't have an interview. We ask them if they are married, single, or widowed. If they are employed. What their income is and whether they already have a current account."

"Customers feel it is a serious thing to open an account and they have a perception that the bank has a right to know what their salary is. We do not only ask customers we are continually researching our staff and their attitudes to the bank and customers," she added.

In addition, general market research is carried out with people being picked at random and asked questions.

It was one such survey that elicited that the public visualized Lloyds as a Jaguar, Range Rover or even a Rolls-Royce, while they saw Barclays as a Sierra or Cavalier.

NatWest had a similar profile as Barclays with a few opting for 2CVs and Midland was also in the Vauxhall and Ford mould with a few GTIs. Lloyds put the results down to the television advertisements. It was using Nigel Havers and Leo McKern, while NatWest was concentrating on younger customers.

Confusion on bonuses finds Standard English solution

By Jill Inley

WITH profits, reversionary bonuses, and terminal bonuses are terms most people with a mortgage have had to come to grips with at some time in dealing with their insurance company.

Now, Standard Life, the largest mutual insurer, has decided to end confusion by sending an explanatory guide on bonuses to its with-profits policyholders.

The guide will be sent at the same time as the insurance company's bonus declaration, which tells the policyholder how much money is guaranteed to be paid by the policy.

Standard Life produces a typical statement, providing

an explanation for each section. Maturity value of a with-profits policy is a combination of three sums.

● Sum assured - the guaranteed amount of life assurance benefit to which any bonuses and additional funds assured are added.

● Reversionary bonuses - the benefit provided by with-profits policies are increased each year by bonus additions to the sum assured. Reversionary bonuses are payable at their full face value when the sum assured becomes payable, when the policyholder dies or on the maturity date. The insurance company guarantees not to reduce or remove reversionary bonuses

providing the policy is kept in force and unaltered.

● Terminal bonuses - these are further amounts which will probably be included in the claim values, in addition to the sums assured and reversionary bonuses.

The benefits are distributed among different generations of policyholders to achieve a fair spread.

Mr Alan Burton, Standard Life's marketing manager, says the company hopes to make the "gobbledygook" of bonus statements a bit more understandable to customers. Any policyholder who still does not understand his benefit statement can contact Standard Life on 031-245 6617.

Initiative at Nationwide

By Jon Ashworth

THE Nationwide Anglia Building Society has cut up to 1.1 per cent from its mortgage rate as part of a drive to win new borrowers.

A new package, Initiative 90, offers bonuses to first-time buyers and to borrowers taking out larger loans.

First-time buyers will gain a discount of 0.5 per cent for a year, reducing the present mortgage rate to 14.9 per cent. They will be given another 0.5 per cent discount if they link their mortgage to an endowment or pension from Nation-

wide Anglia and either buy their home through the society's estate agents or have their salary automatically paid into a FlexAccount with the society.

People taking out mortgages of £60,000 or more will be given a 0.65 per cent reduction for three years. First-time buyers who qualify for the large loan discount and the bonus discount will shave 1.15 per cent off the present mortgage rate of 15.4 per cent. For the first year, they would pay 14.25 per cent.

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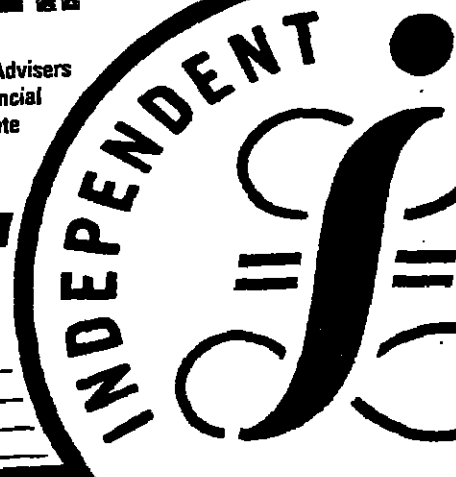
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ASSET BOND

Interest will be credited on 31 December 1990.

*Must register by 1 June 1990. Early closure before 31 December 1990 is available subject to only 30 days loss of interest. Any individual over 18 will be able to open one TESSA. All references to TESSA are subject to proposed legislation being passed.

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Outstanding interest now for investments between £1800 and £9000, and a bonus on TESSA in 1991.

Next year savers will be able to benefit from TESSA (Tax Exempt Special Savings Account). However, our new ASSET BOND allows you to plan for TESSA now, in addition to offering an outstanding 11% net variable (14.67% gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers).

You can open an ASSET BOND with as little as £1800 and register as a priority customer for our TESSA scheme when it becomes available next year, with the opportunity to earn a special bonus. Of course, should you choose not to join our TESSA plan, you will have instant access without penalty to your savings during January 1991.

When TESSA becomes available we will be able to transfer savings directly into the plan to suit your individual needs, subject to the maximum investment limits for each year of the plan. By investing £9000 in an ASSET BOND you automatically take care of the total TESSA contribution to your first plan.

And, as a priority customer, opening a Yorkshire Building Society TESSA plan by 31 March 1991 will entitle you to a special bonus of 1% extra interest on your first year's contributions to the plan.

Whichever way you look at it, turning an ASSET into a TESSA offers a unique investment opportunity.

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I enclose a cheque for £ (min £1800),
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FAMILY MONEY

Prospecting for gold bullion

By Jon Ashworth

THE first investment trust to invest only in gold shares and bullion goes on offer in Britain next week.

The Gold Investment Trust, which is jointly sponsored by James Capel and Robert Fleming, hopes to raise at least £100 million to invest in blue chip gold-mining shares and the metal itself.

A quarter of the trust shares will be available to private investors.

Mr Julian Baring, head of James Capel's mining team for 15 years, said the trust would mirror the performance of the world's leading gold shares. "The difficulty is to get the timing right in these matters. I happen to think that the timing is good."

The gold price rallied strongly last year, but has since slipped back below the \$400 level. It plunged sharply this week on the back of continuing economic uncertainties.

Despite the sharp falls, Mr Baring said he believed bullion had "passed the bottom" and was ready to move ahead.

The trust will hold up to 15 per cent in gold bullion — unlike unit trusts, which can-



Matter of timing: Julian Baring, head of the mining team at broker James Capel

not hold commodities. It will additionally invest in the shares of major gold-mining companies in North America, South Africa and Australia.

The fund manager, Mr Andrew Spencer, of Fleming Investment Trust Manage-

ment, said the trust was aiming for stable growth in the long term.

Unlike a unit trust, the number of units will not swing up and down to follow gold's fortunes. "As a closed-end fund, it will not be subject to

massive variations in cash-flow. Gold unit trusts may triple in size and then halve within the space of 12 months. This does not help stability and increases costs," Mr Spencer said.

Mr Spencer manages the

Save & Prosper Gold & Exploration and Commodity Share funds, as well as the offshore Save & Prosper Gold Fund. Gold and commodity funds have performed abysmally over the past five years. An investment of £100 in March 1985 would have grown to only £130 today in the average fund, well below a typical building society return.

Save & Prosper Gold & Exploration is ranked 25 out of 29 funds over one year. Despite the sector's poor performance, analysts say there is a place for an investment trust which will reflect the fortunes of gold-mining shares. There has been a gap in the market since Consolidated Gold Fields ceased to be quoted on the London stock market.

"We feel that this is a good time to bring such a trust into existence," said Mr Spencer. "Gold will always be cyclical, but investors need to have such a vehicle for when the time is right."

The offer for subscription in shares in the Gold Investment Trust opens on Wednesday. The minimum investment is £1,000, and charges, including commission, are 3 per cent. The projected yield, after expenses, is 1 per cent.

Revenue writes rules for rifts

THE effects of independent taxation on couples who are permanently separated or divorced are detailed in a new publication from the Inland Revenue, (writes Lindsay Cook).

Couples should tell their tax office as soon as they decide to live apart, as their tax allowances may be affected.

A married man can claim the married couple's allowance, which replaces the married man's allowance next Friday, only if he is living with his wife at some time during the tax year for which he is claiming the allowance. There is one exception: a married man who separated from his wife before April 6, 1990, can

claim the allowance on a transitional basis if he is still married and has wholly maintained his wife since the separation by voluntary payments.

The additional personal allowance can be claimed by a parent who is bringing up a child but who cannot claim the married couple's allowance.

The applicant must look after a child at his or her own expense, and be the natural parent, step-parent or adoptive parent.

In general, in the tax year in which a couple separates the husband can claim the married couple's allowance and the wife can claim the addi-

tional personal allowance if she has a child living with her. The new publication gives the rules for tax treatment of maintenance payments, which were changed in the 1988 Finance Act.

It answers such questions as: Can I claim for payments to more than one ex-wife or ex-husband? The answer is "Yes, but the upper limit on relief in any one tax year remains the same."

The booklet, IR 93 Income Tax: Separation, Divorce and Maintenance Payments, is available free from local tax offices and from the Inland Revenue Public Inquiry Room, West Wing, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LB.

LETTERS

Dread disease

From D.C. Rodliffe

Sir, Your interesting article on the relatively new "dread disease" insurance (March 10, "BNF cover fallout") was spoilt for me by the no-doubt-unintended implication that because several insurers seem to have excluded BNFL employees from cover then so will they all.

Jill Insley may not yet have discovered the 20 or so other insurers who I understand already offer similar policies. Naturally, all will take a prudent view in the early years of marketing a new product. But, as Jill says, some, like well-respected Victory reinsurers, may conclude that people involved in the nuclear fuel industry do not present a major problem.

Perhaps that is why BNFL already offers its employees personal accident insurance, life assurance, and superannuation benefits rated as amongst the best of any industry? Yours faithfully, D.C. RODLIFFE, Insurance Manager BNFL, British Nuclear Fuels plc, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire.

Pitfalls of direct-debit mandate

From Dr H. Yarrow

Sir, It seems to be becoming increasingly common for large organizations to induce, or even direct, their customers to sign a mandate for direct debit which enables these organizations to transfer funds from the customer's account to that of the supplier without any further notice to the customer.

Bearing in mind that a direct-debit mandate is opened, the customer is entirely at the mercy of the honesty and integrity of the supplier; and yet, in spite of this, some horrendous errors have occurred, involving the customer

in a great deal of trouble and expense.

Furthermore, the attitude of these organizations is often either that of "take it or leave it" or an insistence on a surcharge for those unwilling to tolerate this.

I have recently been in correspondence with the RAC Club, of which I have been a member for 15 years, paying my subscriptions, promptly on demand. The RAC now insist on direct debit; failing which, they will make a surcharge of £25 "in fairness to the vast majority." The reason given is that a direct debit will be a convenience to

the club and result in a saving on administration costs. Members who object will be asked to resign, as I have been.

I am old-fashioned enough to believe that clubs exist for the convenience of their members, not the other way round.

Yours faithfully, DR H. YARROW, Chairman, Dermal Laboratories Ltd, Tatmore Place, Gosmore, Hitchin, Herts.

■ Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

Without issue

From Mr J. M. Gray

Sir, Abbey National was, quite rightly, publicly castigated last year for the shortcomings of the handling of its share issue.

Why, then, is it that the incompetence of the administration of the water issue has not been similarly criticized in public?

My wife's original cheque was debited to her bank account on December 13, but since then — in spite of repeated telephone calls and letters to the registrars in Bristol, who blandly state that they have been inundated with complaints — she has received neither certificates nor balance cheques.

She has thus been precluded from either selling her shares or buying additional shares with the balance of her original remittance.

Surely 10 weeks, with no shares and no money, must be a record.

Yours truly, J. M. GRAY, Blairlodge, Dundrum, Newcastle, Co Down.

Building society interest charge on insurance premiums

From Mr A. Coley

Sir, I read the article on the interest charged by building societies on insurance premiums in *The Times* (March 3) with great interest as I have a mortgage with the Halifax. Up to last October I had one of their Xtacover Plus policies but because it was getting

so expensive I split up my policies. The property insurance is paid monthly along with my mortgage but the contents are now insured through the Halifax with General Accident (Contents Xtra). There is no charge for paying by instalments with this policy but no one would, of course,

tell you this. Payment is by direct debit from my Maxim account. I have written to the Halifax to clarify the interest rate position. Thank you for the information. Yours faithfully, MR A. COLEY, 46 Spinneyfield, Rotherham.

Britain under pressure on no-fault insurance

UK faces hostility over sea dumping

Poll tax rate 'will make more homeless'

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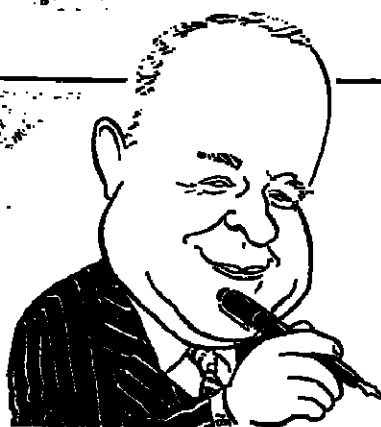
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Havel and the Czech bouncer



My new friend Vaclav Havel more or less dictated the shape of one night since you and I last communed. The evening started with my old friend Alistair Beaton demanding to be taken to the first night of *Someone Like You* because we share an affection for the producer, Harold Fielding, for whom we lost a record sum on *Ziegfeld*. Harold's new show owes everything to the evergreen Paula Clark, conceiver, composer and star.

It was a bumpy night, defined by an incident during an emotional climax to Act II. Miss Clark pointed a rifle at her faithless, bigamous husband. He said: "She won't shoot"; but a small voice in the circle pierced the moment: "She might!"

My scheme was to get Alistair to feed me background information (wicked gossip) about the musical, *King*, which has been having a rocky ride in rehearsal at the Piccadilly Theatre. He is writing additional lyrics.

The best story so far is that various lynx-eyed born-again lawyers and agents insist on starting their many conferences with devotions, beginning, I assume: "Nothing in this prayer constitutes a contract..."

Unfortunately, although I tried everything, Alistair's lips were loyally sealed. I set off for the Barbican where Terry Hands was pouring for my new friend, Vaclav. This was generous of me because Vaclav, according to one radio commentator, "hates loose ends". He looks surprisingly like his own description: "a well-fed piglet", and the naturally intellectual son of an erstwhile millionaire. Our friendship had little chance to develop because Vaclav was about 30ft away and between us and intimacy were the Pinters, Clive James, Jeremy Irons, Arnold Wesker, Ronald Harwood, Neil Kinnock and a few hundred others. I didn't see Tom Stoppard but I wondered how Vaclav balances the Pinter and Stoppard political poles. A common interest in cricket?

However, as everyone else in theatrical London is claiming closeness I don't see why I shouldn't.



Vaclav certainly knows how to make a short and beguiling speech. He hit home on censorship: "If you wish to see your work in performance it is a good idea to become president first."

LITHUANIA hogs the headlines; but what will happen in Albania — the last Red domino to fall? Who could lead them to *glasnost* and *perestroika*? Is there an available descendant of the national hero, George Castriot? Known as "Skanderbeg", in 1443 he expelled the ruling Turks. To Byron he was "Iskander" in *Childe Harold*.

Benevolent leadership has been a problem recently. In 1912 C. B. Fry, the England cricketer, was offered the throne. Prince William of Wied lasted two years. Ahmed Zog, in a retort ascent, was PM in 1922. President in 1925, and King Zog the One (and Only) in 1928. In the Thirties Mussolini tried to marry him to an Italian princess. She

plumped for Boris of Bulgaria. Zog finally married a Hungarian, Geraldine, before fleeing to Duce's troops. Their heir, who is incredibly tall, lives in South Africa with an Australian wife who answers the phone saying: "The King is out. Queen Susan speaking." Recently, the official *New Albanian Magazine* commended the late John Belushi, as a "classical beauty... sincere, loving, and devoted to his wife". That was all wide of the mark, but Belushi's brother Jim might be a candidate.

In the Fry tradition, I recommend an English cricketer poet for king. Why not Tim Rice? One day the phone in the palace in Tirana might be answered by Queen Elaine: "Don't cry for me, dear Albania."

WAITING in the wings at the West End Cares charity concert for Aids, I remembered my first charity gala. While I was at Oxford in the very

early Fifties, Greece was smitten by a mammoth earthquake. We did a concert and raised a few quid. I remember Alexander Weymouth behaving badly in the audience and Dame Maggie Smith, then an ASM at the Playhouse, mimicking Joan Greenwood in an excerpt from *The Importance*. The big gala was in London. We bought gallery tickets (about five shillings), and I went to a reception earlier in the Avenue Road to be thanked for my efforts by the committee.

Once there I found that I had lost my puny ticket. Lady Katherine Brandram (Princess Katherine of Greece) was the officiating royal. "Well, you must sit in my box," she said kindly, and so I found myself, on my first visit to Drury Lane, perched in the royal box.

They really had midnight matinees in those days. It started well after 11 and was still going strong at four. Laurence Olivier spoke a prologue by Christopher Fry. Some colourful Brazilians danced, and I recall Christopher Hewitt doing that revue sketch about Sir Christopher Wren — something like, "Hush, hush, if anyone calls, tell them I'm out. I'm designing St Paul's".

Lady Katherine and party left around three. I was not going to miss a moment. Alone in the royal box at the end, I heard the national anthem strike up. I stood and basked in the spotlight which swung on to me, to the consternation of my

undergraduate contemporaries in the gods, who were unaware that I was a temporary member of the Greek royal family. The music stopped. I shuffled into my coat. The orchestra played another (unfamiliar) tune.

I peered over the box and saw all the Greeks at attention. Ramrod stiff, I took another call in the spots. Since then, charity galas have always been an anticlimax.

MY NEW friends Glenn and Mel were separated from me by only one table at the 62nd Oscar awards British bash at the Ritz. I thought Ms Close and Mr Gibson were both looking good and not at all like the mother and son they are about to play in Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*. Anyway, at my table I had Rula Lenska, Helena Bonham-Carter and Emily Lloyd, so I didn't miss congress with Mel and Glenn.

LAST week I congratulated the Duchess of Devonshire (and the Duke) on their fortieth year together in the emine. Intrigued, I have cast a curious eye over other ducal families. My goodness, they have a good run for their money. When he died in 1984, the tenth Duke of Beaufort had worn his coronet for 60 years, pipping the ninth Duke of Richmond and Gordon by only six years. The recently departed Dukes of Newcastle and Northumberland clocked up 48 years apiece.

The clear front-runner now is the tenth Duke of Rutland, who celebrates his half-century at Belvoir this year, trailed somewhat by His Grace of Bedford, 37, with his fearsome Scottish-*à-la* of Montrose, Atholl and Fife edging up at 36, 33 and 31 years of dukedom. I'm numbed when I ponder researching the life expectancy of dowagers.

LIBBY PURVES

If I were...

If I were Glenda Jackson, I would be rapidly cooling off after the excitement of becoming the prospective Labour candidate for Hampstead and Highgate. With the polls showing every likelihood of my winning a seat in Parliament by 1992, nothing would be growing colder than my feet.

I am, after all, no fool; the differences between acting and being an MP are perfectly obvious to me, and not entirely welcome. I can just about face the job itself, although after years nourished by the disciplined energy and talent of theatrical work, I may well find it hard not to scream with frustration after a few hours in the waffling, bickering, backbiting atmosphere of Committees or during a late-night filibuster in the House. When I take constituency surgeries, I shall not find it easy to admit to myself, after a life of successes, that almost everything I try to do for my electors will fail on some point of bureaucracy.

I reflect that there will be many psychological adjustments to make in giving up acting for politics. One grows accustomed, for one thing, to being liked. Famous actors and actresses are, by and large, loved and feted by the ordinary, decent public, but famous MPs are not. The only ones I can think of who have ever approached the level of real affection achieved by veteran actors are Jack Ashley and the late David Penhaligon. All the others enjoy a nervy, neurotic popularity among their own parties and constituents, and are heartily disliked by the other half of the country.

I am a woman of taste and discernment and British politics, I realize, is a down-market business. I first sa-



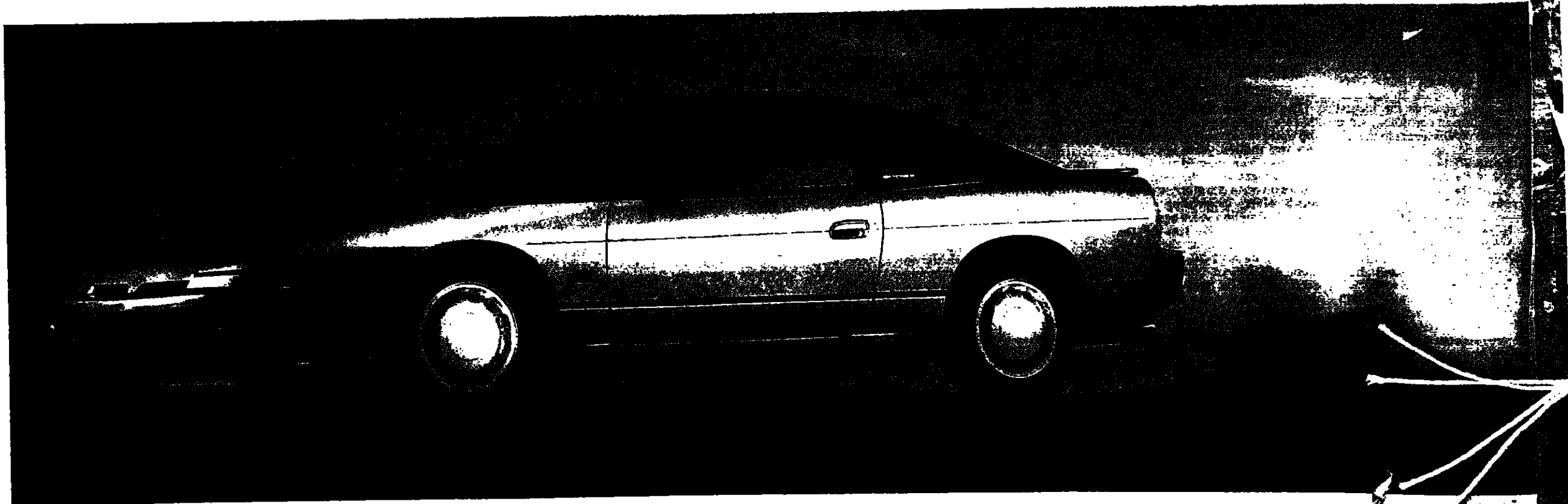
... Glenda Jackson

this when Neil made me present a bunch of red roses to the candidate Ms Deirdre Wood during the Greenwich by-election campaign: I said to her "I think it's a bit stiff", but the party wasn't pleased. I remember with sinking heart how Roy Jenkins, another man with a touch of class, was forced to do Alliance Party broadcasts in the sort of soft-focus woodland setting usually associated with advertisements for lavatory paper. I wonder grimly what the party has in store for me in the big campaign.

And when I have won, I must try to be parliamentary, and keep the rules, and bite back my instinct to make wisecracks like this week's one about the House of Commons needing "a really good primary-school teacher to lick it into shape". I must take all these absurd men seriously, and not giggle at all the silk stockings and fancy wigs and Black Rods and people shouting "Hats off, strangers!" for the Speaker's procession. I must pretend, as a humble new girl, to accept that mooring and shouting "yah, yah" is an essential part of British democracy. I must make allowances. I am, after all, moving from professional theatre to amateur.

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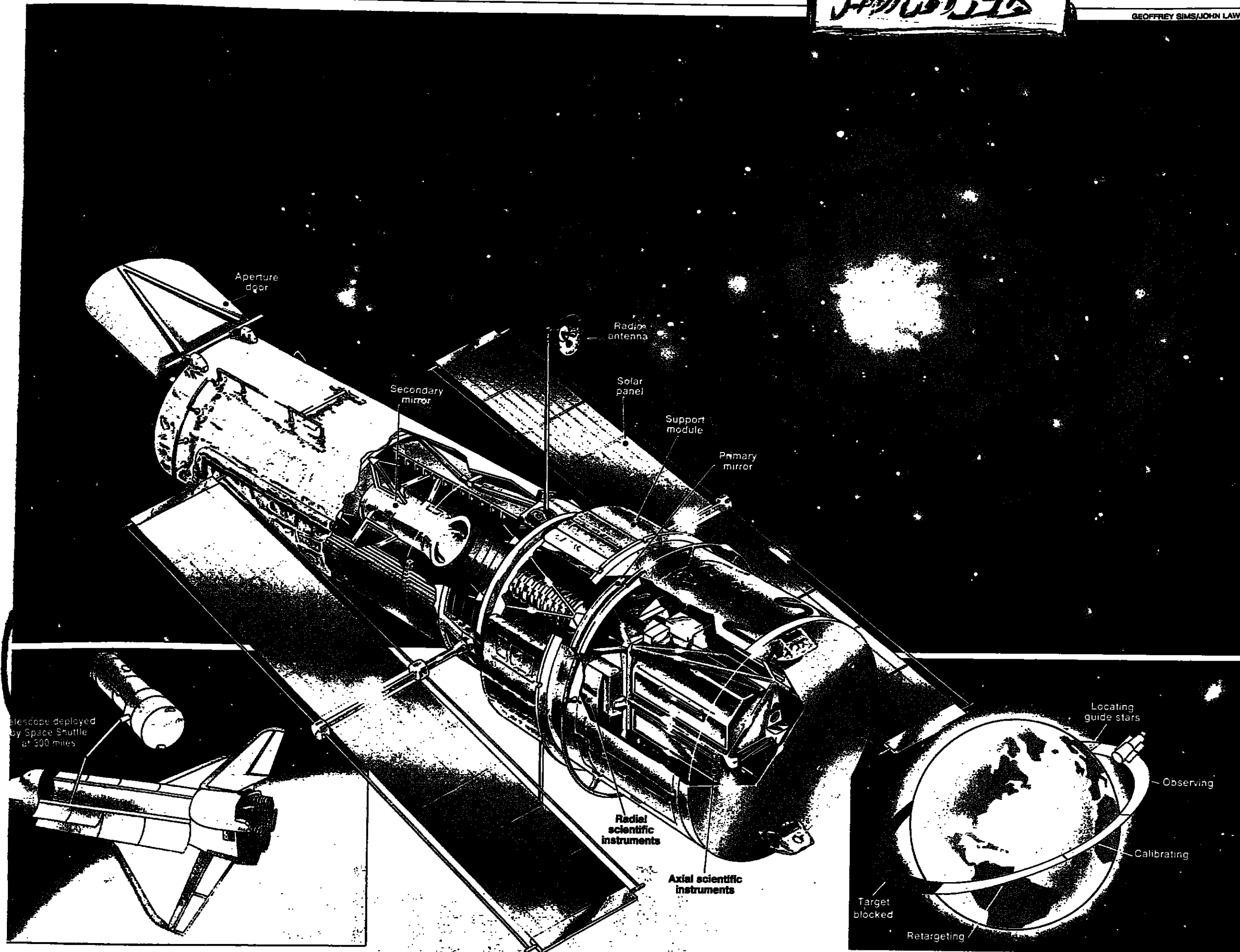
REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY MARCH 31 1990

الجمعة 31 مارس 1990

GEOFFREY SIMS/JOHN LAWSON



Spyglass on Creation

Next month, for the first time in man's life on Earth, the human eye may see images of light from the Creation.

In the Hubble space telescope, launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida on April 12, make possible the biggest advance in cosmology since Galileo turned his lenses to the sky centuries ago. The multi-billion dollar project, has battled with physical adversity for almost 20 years, should soon repay its debt with answers to some of the most fundamental questions of existence, when did it begin, how fast is it changing, and how long will it survive? The vast issues have gained popularity in the last 10 years because of the success of Stephen Hawking's book, *A Brief History of Time*, which has been closer even to the solution of the universe's deepest problem: is it a unified theory, beyond relativity and quantum mechanics, that explains the universe? It first became a practical issue in the late 1950s, a time when the first space telescope in space has been launched. At even the highest in the atmosphere, the five atmospheric cloud lies in the depths of space. The strongest rays get the gaseous blanket, creating a pattern of planets, stars and galaxies which make up the night sky. These visible galaxies, such as the Pole and Plough, form only a tiny part of the whole picture. The prospect of seeing the universe, conventional astronomy, has been likened to bird-watching from the bottom of a lake.

The telescope should see 30 times fainter than what can be seen by even the best ground-based equipment. The light from the stars, the Sun, is already faint. At night, when we see the next nearest star, the Sirius, it is 4.2 light years old. We see the more distant past.

In the beginning there was the Big Bang . . . then there was Galileo . . . now there is the Hubble space telescope to answer man's deepest questions. Peter Stothard explains

The light from the furthest stars that the naked eye can see reflects the world in that part of space as it was two million years ago, when primitive man roamed the Earth. The starlight that the best telescopes on earth can glimpse is very much older, originating up to around 10 billion years ago. But, through the lens of the Hubble telescope, the newly visible fullness of space, astronomers will see in unprecedented detail almost the last step of the way to time's beginning. The light from those furthest stars will have come from the most ancient sources in the universe, from matter that existed at about the time of the Big Bang itself.

The birthdate of the universe is one of those big unknowns which the Hubble should help to make known. But, according to current estimates, some of the light which should soon land on the telescope's 94.5in mirrored lens began its journey into space 15 billion years ago. It is hard to imagine, but those same light waves, travelling at 186,000 miles per second, were still coming in our direction 10 billion years later, when the Earth that would one day receive them was a mere semi-solid mass of cooling gas. Another five billion years later those ancient rays of light may finally be measured by men who want to know what it was like when time began.

This ancient light will soon be refracted, divided, photographed and fought over. There are theoretical problems — and furious scientific arguments — about whether anything visible exists so close to the beginning of time. But Hubble ought to bring us within a million years of the Creation. It should help reveal the origins of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, the building blocks of life on Earth, and maybe elsewhere as well.

The man in charge of this most hubristic inquiry in human history is an American astronomer who originally, like Galileo, came from Italy. Dr Riccardo Giacconi likes the comparison. He is tough, difficult, charismatic, and enjoys the reputation of being a Renaissance man.

He also has many of Galileo's problems. Although with one eye he may be peering into the greatest mysteries of existence, with his other eye he has to watch for rather more mundane phenomena — his sponsors in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the European Space Agency (ESA), the enemies in Congress who would cut his budget, his academic rivals who would dissipate his funds on more reliable but less dramatic schemes. The Hubble project has already cost \$1.5 billion over a period in which the space budget has come under intensifying political scrutiny. By the end of its 15-year life the cost could be \$8 billion. Dr Giacconi has been vigorously accused of wanting to dominate the astronomical world, of lavishing money on the unknowable.

The project has suffered lengthy technical delays. Against the wishes of most of its scientists, the politicians made it part of the Shuttle programme. The telescope project, therefore, suffered an almost fatal disaster when Challenger exploded over the Florida skies in January 1986. It still has to surmount its toughest test, a successful launch into the right orbit, a successful unfurling of its British-made solar panels, and a successful switch-on of six highly sensitive instruments.

But it has survived so far. A tool of pure astronomical research — unconnected to Star Wars, gravity-free crystal manufacture or the dust-free perfection of drugs — has made it to the launch pad. With luck, a winged silver tube, 12 tons in weight and the size of a large railway carriage, will soon be outside the earth's atmosphere, orbiting at a height of 380 miles, unravelling the secrets of time.

The Hubble project is the latest phase in a fast-moving story. "Anything you really want to know about the universe we have found out in the last 50 or so years," Dr Giacconi says. "If you want to know how big it is and how old, we started learning that in 1930."

That was the heyday of the man after whom the space telescope is named. Today Edwin Hubble is by no means famous, not even in his native America. But he has good claim to be remembered as one of the most remarkable men of the century, a worthy successor to Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton and Einstein.

He was not a popular figure. He had a reputation among his colleagues as a pompous Anglophile who aped the manners of the British upper class. Like many great thinkers, he was also a reluctant specialist. As a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, he was a skilled boxer whom a promoter is said to have wanted to train for the heavyweight championship of the world. Instead, he chose to study jurisprudence, and became briefly a high-school Spanish teacher.

He began his astronomical career, aged 25, in 1914, and by 1929 had advanced two enormously influential scientific discoveries. The first was that our own galaxy was not the only galaxy; the second, that all the galaxies in the universe — we now can see some hundred thousand million of them — were moving away from one another. These truths had escaped the minds of his predecessors. Modern science, while abandoning Aristotle's view that all heavenly bodies moved round the Earth, had not given up the ancient idea that the world was a static, unchanging thing. Even Einstein had initially amended his general theory of relativity to make it fit with the idea of a static universe.

Hubble used the world's then best telescopes to prove that this was not the case. By carefully measuring the distance between stars and the changes in their colour, he discovered that the stars of the more distant, older galaxies were moving away from each other faster than those that were closer.

The universe was expanding. Its expansion was also gradually slowing down. Hubble became the father of the Big Bang, the now dominant theory of how the universe began. It would be fitting then if the Hubble space telescope should tell us when the Big Bang happened. And if God is thought to have created the world at that moment, the telescope will put the first proper date on the Book of Genesis.

In the space telescope headquarters itself, on the edge of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the atmosphere is curiously down-to-earth in comparison to these astonishing ambitions.

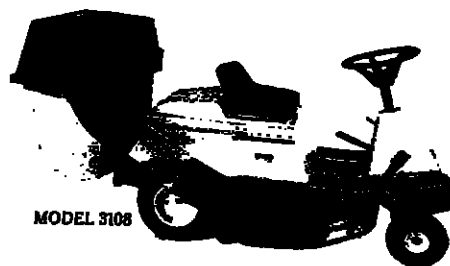
Dr Giacconi's enthusiastic public relations men are working hard to focus the world's attention on the vastness of their leader's conception. But others, including the respected British leader on the project, 42-year-old Dr Chris Blades from Birkenhead, have more simple concerns.

Dr Blades, whose responsibilities include the special telephone-box-sized cameras, has to ensure that technical specifications are met. He is hopeful that the Hubble will clarify various problems within the solar system or find a black hole in a nearby galaxy. "We do occasionally think about the really big picture," he says, "but if you think about it too much, you'll go mad."

Historians sometimes divide astronomers into "builders" and "architects". The architects are like Einstein and Copernicus, discerning the truth out of mathematics and dreams. The builders are all the more numerous astronomical observers who try to fit the facts into the architecture. "It is better day-to-day to be a builder," Dr Blades says. "There are certainly some builders who think they are architects. But we all have our dreams of Nobel prizes."

A real prospect is that one of the most elusive goals for would-be Continued overleaf

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN JACQUES

Fishing for solutions



Arriving in the Falkland Islands after an 18-hour flight that only sees land once — that's Ascension Island, a volcanic blob in the Atlantic — it is customary for the more waggish RAF cabin crew on board the wide-bodied TriStar jet, which makes the trip twice a week, to announce: "You should now put back your watches three hours and 20 years."

It's not just the fact that these islands — East and West Falklands and more than 100 others — are 8,000 miles away in the middle of an ocean that gives the impression of isolation from the rest of the world. Once you have landed — and extricated yourself from the embrace of all the military paraphernalia which absorbs huge chunks of land around Mount Pleasant airport — meeting the natives is a bit like going back a couple of decades.

Not that you would expect to find Port Stanley, the capital, overrun with BMWs. Nor, with the climate here, would you anticipate running into anyone who could be described as fashionably dressed. But, that said, the Falklands way of life was moulded a long time ago and has hardly changed.

Nevertheless, in the eight years since the Argentinians were vanquished and sent packing after seriously disturbing the peace for 74 days following the invasion on April 2, 1982, the inhabitants have had to acknowledge that, in many ways, their islands have been transformed. The pace of life is still slow, but renewed interest in the Falklands from the outside world has brought financial gains and some unwelcome side-effects.

Their attitude towards the Argentinians has not changed, however. While relations between London and Buenos Aires have improved significantly, the islanders remain hostile. They need to be reassured that Britain will continue to protect them — even more so from today, with the lifting of the 150-mile protection zone around the Falklands. Recently an Argentinian yachtman in difficulties sought permission

Michael Evans reports on the changes afoot in the Falklands, the islands that time is just beginning to remember

to land at Port Stanley to carry out repairs. He was not allowed to go ashore and no one would have welcomed him had he done so. Now the islanders are worried that the removal of the protection zone will enable Argentinians in similar situations to walk the streets of Port Stanley.

Tricia Card, a 22-year-old "roustie" (someone who works with the sheep shears, piling up the wool into bundles), has a commonly held view of the Argentinians. "We don't want them back," she said. "We don't want anything to do with them. We don't even want them to come and visit the cemetery [for the Argentinian soldiers killed in the war], although I suppose that's all right, as long as they don't stay long." The cemetery is not far from Goose Green, hidden in the hills so that it cannot be seen from any of the houses.



Port Stanley already has an extraordinary mixture of visitors: Russians, Poles, Taiwanese, Koreans, Bulgarians, Japanese. They generally come ashore, about 50 at a time, in little groups, and wander round Stanley for a few hours to stretch their legs before leaving. These are the fishermen who come to the South Atlantic to scoop up the squid, hake and whiting and hand over large sums of money for the privilege. Fish, not sheep, are now the Falklands' biggest money-maker. More than 70 per cent (£27 million) of the Falklands' estimated revenue of £39.5 million

for the current financial year will come from fishing licences. There are about 180 vessels fishing at any one time with 250 licences each costing from £10,000 to £250,000. There are only three British boats among them. The fish are so abundant that it's possible to recoup the cost of a £250,000 licence in one week. The average daily take is between 50 and 60 tons. But Port Stanley gives no impression of being a boom town.

William Fullerton, the academic-looking governor, sitting in his comfortably old-fashioned sitting-room at Government House, explains why. Dismissing a report that the Falklands was now, man for man, the richest country in the western hemisphere, he says: "This place is not rolling in money. We've got a £56-million infrastructure programme going on at the moment, just to get us up to acceptable standards."

The extra revenue has meant improved electricity and water supplies and a decent telephone system. Several entrepreneurs have also made their fortunes by supplying provisions for the fishermen, who never stay long in Stanley. A quick walk round West Store to buy souvenirs, a drink in one of the four hostilities — the Upland Goose, Globe, Victory or Rose and Crown — and they are off back to making money in their stake-out in the South Atlantic. Since there are about 4,000 of them, it's fortunate they do not all turn up at the same time. Stanley could not cope.

If there's no fish boom in the town, what about an oil boom? Although experts say there could be oil around the Falklands, no one is certain. Mr Fullerton says. Some of the islanders believe it could damage their way of life, although a few were reassured after visiting the Shetlands to see how they are coping with their oil boom.

A few hundred yards up from Government House, along the waterfront, Superintendent Bill Greenland, ex-military police major and, since February 1985, chief of police, has other reasons for not being enthusiastic about oil-hungry visitors flocking to the South Atlantic. He and his team of 13 men and three women are



already faced with a high delinquency rate among the local populace, and the foreign fishermen have been known to cause trouble.

Despite his onerous duties, Mr Greenland never stops smiling. Crime figures have leapt from 42 recorded offences in 1984 to about 380 last year. "But there is no organized crime," he says. "There are no professional criminals in the Falklands. We get a lot of motoring offences, and we've also had two quite serious burglaries. Last year jewellery and watches worth £8,000 were stolen from a gift shop."

The 42-year-old superintendent from Stafford likes his job so much that he has parted with his family. His wife Elizabeth, a graduate, has returned to Britain with their three children because she wanted a fulfilling job. Mr Greenland gets leave once a year.

One of the serious problems facing the Falklands is the housing shortage. People are so desperate for a place of their own that surplus Army Portakabins, com-

plete with lavatories and showers, are sold off every year at an open day in July and are snapped up by the islanders at prices ranging from £25 to £500. Some are used as weekend retreats.



Others buy ready-made kit homes from Chile. You can purchase a quarter of an acre of land for about £2,000, get a kit house for £14,000, spend another £2,000 erecting it, and have a home of your own. The trouble is that this sort of building initiative is likely to be banned soon, following the arrival in the Falklands last November of Roy Carrer from the Shetlands. He has been appointed the islands' first planning officer and is drawing up building regulations, which will ensure that all houses are properly insulated and protected from the bad weather.

The most expensive houses sell for about £100,000. The only people who can afford these are

business consultants and government officials, of whom there are about 300, including postal officers, engineers and administrators. Most of the professional staff, such as doctors and dentists, and 70 per cent of the teachers, are recruited from Britain. So, too, are the attorney-general, finance secretary, chief executive and Crown counsel.

A number of new homes are appearing on the outskirts of Stanley, but the rate of construction is slow because all the materials have to be shipped from Britain.

Accommodation is so limited for the American and German tourists who arrive by cruise ship from Chile, on their way to or from the Antarctic to photograph the wildlife — penguins, elephant seals, albatrosses, sea lions — that they have to eat and sleep on board their vessels.

The hotels can only cope with those tourists who fly in on the RAF TriStar jets from Britain. The Upland Goose, which charges about £30 a night for bed and

breakfast, has only one rival, the Malvinia Hotel; both are in Stanley. The latter used to be called Malvinia House, but was renamed Harrier House in honour of the RAF pilots who used to frequent it after the 1982 conflict. The owners were also worried that British servicemen would not appreciate the old name, because it sounded like the Malvinas — Argentina's name for the Falklands. However, Malvinia is a common girl's name in the Falklands, and the new owners have reverted to the hotel's original name.

There are no new hotels, but the local tourist office has drawn up a network of bed and breakfast places dotted around the Falklands, which charge about £18 a night. There are also special tourist lodges in beauty spots such as Sea Lion Island.

As for the military, they remain tucked away in their unpleasantly green Mount Pleasant garrison. The servicemen, most of whom come for four months, count off the days until they can return home.

FARMYARD DIARY

Paul Heiney

Stereo warfare

ON THE first night in our new farm, we broke a wild and skittish that shook the old stable buildings to their dubious foundations.

On an ordinary farm, you can reasonably assume that if you buy a new tractor, it will stand quite happily with the old ones. The same is not true of carthorses.

Our new young horse, named Blue, had arrived in the afternoon and taken his place in the stable with our two old-stagers, Punch and Star. Nothing much happened. After feeding, and with dusk falling, I turned out all three into our enclosed horse-yard for the night. That was their cue. There was a mighty roar from the normally docile Star and a buck and a kick from the usually idle Punch. Blue covered in a corner. I put a heavy gate between me and them as they charged and galloped, zig-zagging up and down a field and the taste of chemical borne on an unfortunate breeze was soon on my lips. I dived behind a hedge and thought, His right to spray is incontrovertible but so is mine to farm without chemicals. There will have to be some diplomacy across the hedge.

The air of tension that had hung over the farm since the stable-yard fight was broken by the arrival of an encouraging letter from a friend. He quoted the warning to the farmers in Britten's *Paul Bunyan* (libretto, W.H. Auden):

"If there isn't a flood, there's a drought.
If there isn't a frost, there's a harvest.
If it isn't the insects, it's the banks.
You'll howl more than you'll sing.
You'll cry more than you'll smile.
You'll frown more than you'll laugh.
But some people seem to like it.
Let's get going."

Feeling better, I went to harness the horses for the first day's work on my own farm.



MUSEUMS

221b or not 221b?

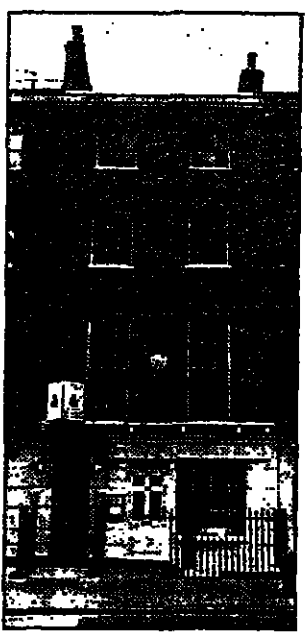
Sherlock Holmes did not exist, and neither did his home, 221b Baker Street. It's all pure fiction, a legend cherished by millions around the world.

But last Tuesday, a new chapter in the latest Sherlock Holmes mystery came to light. The Sherlock Holmes Museum has opened at 221b Baker Street... in London, or rather, 239 Baker Street, because the Abbey National is at 221b, which of course never actually existed....

The debate over Holmes' "real" home would do justice to one of the great Victorian sleuth's own cases. Those on the trail would have found that, since Conan Doyle's sleuth was established 100 years ago, Baker Street has been renamed twice, in 1921 and 1930. For about 50 years it has been assumed that the home was on the site of what is now the Abbey National's base at 225-235.

But, last summer, John Aidiniantz decided to check it by counting the houses up from Oxford Street. The house he came to was not the Abbey National. It was for sale, it fitted descriptions in the stories and *Strand* magazine drawings, and there were exactly 17 steps up from the street, as mentioned in *A Scandal in Bohemia*. Built in 1815, it had been empty since 1934 and still had the furnishings and gas fittings of a private Victorian lodging.

Mr Aidiniantz, a 33-year-old Londoner with an Armenian name, admits that he has had a mixed career — selling videos to Nigerians, dressmaking, being a property agent for Arabs, a music publisher, a singer's promoter

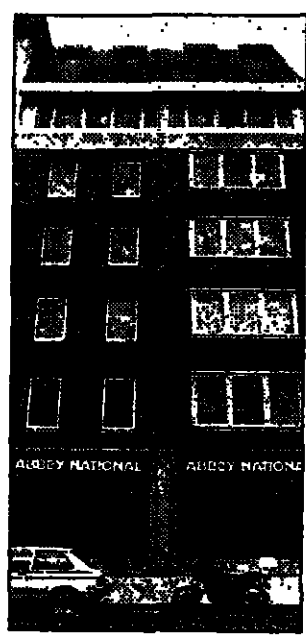


Mystery: did Holmes live at 239 (left) or at 225-235?

— but he believes he has found a potential pot of gold: Holmes' "real" 221b, not so fictional perhaps, since Conan Doyle had lived only a few yards away in York Place.

The asking price was £500,000, and he put an advertisement in *Country Life* appealing for help from "a titled person". One came forward, put him in touch with a bank manager who loaned him the half million.

He persuaded Westminster's planning committee to allow him to make 239, in a residential zone, into a museum. Using the 56 short stories and four novels, and then scouring antique shops and auction houses, he has recreated the study with Holmes-style pipes, chemistry



Mystery: did Holmes live at 239 (left) or at 225-235?

paraphernalia, tobacco slipper, even the violin ("I don't know if it's a Stradivarius, I think Conan Doyle might have been using a bit of journalistic licence").

The museum is still being developed. Watson's bedroom is being made into an art gallery of Sidney Paget drawings and what would have been Mrs Hudson's rooms on the third floor will become a tea shop where visitors can drink Queen Victoria's favourite brew, Mazarin tea.

Mrs Hudson herself will greet guests, as Holmes, of course, retired to the Sussex Downs to raise bees. "If British Telecom co-operates we'll be installing a telephone

link to the villa so people can talk to Mr Holmes directly," Mr Aidiniantz says. It stretches belief, but then, he is the creator of what may be the world's first museum dedicated to someone who never was.

Staff at the Abbey National at 225-235 have been acting as custodians of the Holmes myth for many years. Tony Harries, its corporate affairs accountant, is Sherlock Holmes' unofficial secretary, handling about 20 enquiries a day. "We don't object to a museum opening down the street, in fact we think it's a good idea. What we object to is him calling it 221b," Mr Harries says. "The Post Office recognizes this as 221b. Anything that comes for the museum, and we get bits and bobs, we forward. To number 239." He takes his role seriously, and is going on a lecture tour of America this summer, talking to some of the 156 Sherlockian societies, or the Baker Street Irregulars, as they like to be known.

According to the Sherlock Holmes Society, burgeoning with 1,400 members and membership now closed, both claimants are wrong. Squadron Leader Philip Weller, of the society, says: "Our members spend weeks poring over maps to establish these things, and in Holmes' time neither of these houses was in Baker Street, they were in what was then Upper Baker Street."

"They would have been on the opposite side of the street, and further down on the corner of George Street and Baker Street." But, of course, remember 221b never existed.

Simon Tait

SALES GUIDE

LITTLE AND LARGE: George II bachelor's chest, stands out in this furniture sale (£2,000-£3,000). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-584 9161). Viewing: tomorrow 2.30-5pm, Mon and Tues 8.45am-7pm, Wed 8.45am-5pm. Sale: Thurs 2pm.

TREASURE TROVE: Mixed bag of prints, pictures, watercolours and books with at least two treasures: a privately printed first edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and a D. H. Lawrence, published in Florence in 1928 (£180-£250). And a Girl autograph album containing some of the best stars

autographs of the 50s, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Dusty Springfield, Adam Faith and George Formby. (080-1210). Henry Spencer and Sons, 20 The Square, Bedford, Northamptonshire (0777 708633). Viewing: Tues 10am-5pm, Sale: Wed 11am.

WOODWORKER: 1,500 lots of woodworking tools. David Stanley Auctions, Stordale Grange, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire (0530 222320). Sale, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8: today 10.30am. © More antiques and collectables in *The Times* next Wednesday

EXHIBITIONS

PORTON REVISITED: Archaeology and natural history of a chalk downland site, the 7,000 protected acres of the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down. Salisbury and South Wilts Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury (0722-332151). Opens today. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Until June 30.

FUN OF THE FAIR: Hand-made model roundabouts coinciding with Grantham's mid-Lent fair. Grantham Museum, St Peter's Hill, Grantham (0476 65763). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. April 2-June 3.

John Shaw

OUTINGS

THE sixth International Clowns Convention takes place this weekend in Bognor Regis. Clowns from all over Europe, including national stars such as Ruben and Miko from Sweden, Roberto Rasta from Switzerland and Pipo from West Germany, will attend. And two Russian clowns — Mimichichy (the crying mimic) and Vladimir Olshansky — will visit for the first time.

The convention gets larger every year, and next year the UK will host the first world convention to be held outside the United States. It started 45 years ago, when Stan Buit, a clown buff, persuaded three clowns — Coco, Rainbow and Albertini — to form the Circus Clown Club, or III Cs. The event expanded to become the Clowns International Club. Members met in London every year for the Clowns' Service, held in honour of the great Grimaldi. For the past six years, they have also gathered for this convention, which includes workshops and performances for the public.

You can see them all this weekend in Bognor Regis, with shows taking place in the Big Top and fringe entertainments on the streets. Highlights today include the Grand Parade, which leaves the Big Top at 10.30am, the official opening by Ken Dodd at 11.30am, and a gala show at 7.30pm. Tomorrow the main event is the Magnificent April Fool Show at 3pm.

● Big Top, Bognor Regis Centre, Bognor Regis, West Sussex (0243 865551). Today, 10am to midnight, tomorrow 10am to late afternoon. Ticket prices range from £1 for small shows, to £5 adult, £4 child for tonight's gala performance.

CHINESE WORKSHOP: To the cognoscenti, the I Ching — or book of change — needs no introduction. Jeff Muddle, astrology consultant and teacher, holds a workshop answering questions and showing how to use the book. Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2. Today 12.30-2pm. Free.

DAILY MIRROR CHAMPIONS ALL-INTERNATIONAL: Thirteen countries — including the USSR, Japan, France, China and the US — take part in this one-day event in voluntary exercise for men and women who hold at least one national title. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Today 2pm onwards. Box-office, open 10.30am onwards, (021-780 4141). Tickets £4 and £8.

WILLIAM MORRIS, 1834-1896: From today until mid-June, visitors to the castle can see a major exhibition arranged by the Victoria and Albert Museum. More than 100 exhibits on display, show the design work of Morris and his associates. Bodley Wyddan Castle, Bodley Wyddan, Chwyd, Wales (0745 583539). Until June 10, daily except Fridays, 10.30am-5pm, last admission 4.30pm. Adult £2.75, child £1.50, family £7.

CARING FOR THE DOWNLANDS: Alan Ferguson, Eastbourne's downland ranger, leads a walk through woods and over downland slopes. Meet tomorrow, 10.30am, corner of Paradise Drive and Links Road, Eastbourne. Further information Sue Stott (0323 411669).

LEDS CASTLE SUMMER SEASON: Open from tomorrow, with several major improvements made during the winter months. Apart from the maze, underground grotto, aviary and excavation of the mill, trees lost in the 1987 storm have been replaced along with shrubs and herbaceous plants. Booking for the summer concerts, classical and jazz — also opens tomorrow.

Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0222 765400). Until October 31, daily 11am — last admission 5pm. Adult £3.70, child £2.20, family ticket — two adults plus two children — to grounds £11. Castle and grounds £14.50. **LONDON WATERBUS SERVICE:** 1990: First day of the waterbus service, which provides boat trips on the Regent's Canal. There is a lot to be seen — iron bridges, vistas of Regent's Park, and the 272yd-long Maida Hill Tunnel. Boats also stop at the zoo, Regent's Canal. Daily, from either Camden Lock or Little Venice, north London, between 10am and 5pm. Prices vary depending on the journey. Example: trip Camden Lock to Little Venice, adult £3.10, child £1.80. Little Venice to London Zoo, including admission, adult £6.40, child £3.90. Further information (01-462 2550).

WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM: Explore the ancient buildings including the medieval hall. Throughout the year, a wide range of rural-based and conservation events takes place — from sheepdog trials and heavy horse meets to dawn walks, lectures and demonstrations. Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex (0243 833410). Tomorrow, October 31, daily 11am-5pm. Adult £2.50, child/student £1.25, family ticket £7.50.

Judy Froshang

A CHILDHOOD: IRINA RATUSHINSKAYA

'I wasn't the first poet to be arrested, and I'm not the last. I'm just lucky'

When Irina Ratushinskaya was a child she took the willow sapling she had been growing in a pot for two years and replanted it in the yard of the apartment building in which she lived in Odessa, in Ukraine. A week later workmen came and, despite her protests, ripped up the willow and concreted the yard. It was her first brush with authority.

In one way or another she has been protesting ever since, a course of action which, in 1983, led to her being sentenced to seven years' hard labour for expressing anti-social views in her poetry.

Stripped of her Soviet citizenship, she now lives in London with her husband, Igor, freed after four years because of international pressure, but not exonerated. She was not pardoned, and did not ask for a pardon because she did not consider herself guilty. Officially she is still "a specially dangerous state criminal".

In person she is probably the least dangerous looking person imaginable. "You have to understand that Russian people take poetry and literature very, very seriously. I was not the first poet to be arrested because of what I wrote and I'm not the last. I'm just the lucky one who survived."

"Poetry is not an art which can be practised without freedom, and when people don't have physical freedom they want spiritual freedom more than ever. The only window from their cell for many people is poetry. Because of this, a poet is somebody in Russia. And, of course, if a poet is out of control he or she can influence very many people. That's why our poets are sometimes considered very dangerous state criminals."

She was born in 1954 to a professional couple, her mother a teacher of Russian language and literature and her father an engineer. The family lived with a grandmother in a two-roomed flat. When she was 12 a sister was born. She was 20 before her parents had their own room.

From the earliest age she was encouraged to read. "Because of my parents' work, our flat was filled with books, and because my parents didn't have time to educate me, they felt I should read as early as possible."

"I would say that my relationship with my parents was rather formal. They were always working and didn't have time for long conversations with me. I would have been embarrassed if my father had seen me crying."

"You must remember that they had to do things which parents don't do in Britain. For instance, our apartment building did not have central heating for a long time and I would have to accompany my father into the dark basement and hold the candle while he got the coal for our stove. There were rats in the basement and I was frightened, but I had to hold the candle so that it didn't



shake. I could never show fear. My parents always wanted me to be strong and not show my emotions to other people. It was a tradition in our family not to speak too much about what we felt and not to show that we were afraid of pain. It was out of the question that I would cry because of pain, having injections or having my teeth drilled at the dentist. I just had to pretend, from my earliest childhood, that I felt nothing.

"Sometimes I would like to have been more close with my parents, but it was their way of bringing up children. And I'm not going to criticize them."

What her parents could not have known was that their way of bringing up children was the perfect mental training for dealing

with the KGB, hunger strikes and a labour camp. When the KGB tried to make her cry, they failed. By the time she was at school she had already met her future husband, Igor Gerashchenko, the son of family friends, whose family went to stay with her's when she was six. They kept in touch, rivals as much as friends. In her autobiography (*In The Beginning*, Hodder and Stoughton, £14.95) alternate chapters are given to his story.

At school she was obviously bright, but at quite a young age she became aware of, and critical of, an indoctrination which was supposed to turn children into informers against their parents.

"I never knew anyone who did inform. Children don't like tell-tales, but we were all told the story of the legendary Pavlik Morozov who had informed on his father, and we were expected to admire him." (The father was shot for bending the collective farm rules and young Pavlik was made a questionable martyr by being axed to death by the workers.)

From a non-religious home, she took an early fascination in the Russian Orthodox religion of her grandparents, because of the references to God in the classroom.

"I came to God because my mind was concentrated on the name of God by my school-teachers. They were supposed to be doing the opposite and explaining to us that God didn't exist and that only silly old ladies believed in Him. But I asked myself why

they spoke so much about something which did not exist.

"My first religious experience was when we had to stay behind after lessons and listen to anti-religious propaganda. It was snowing outside and it so seldom snows in Odessa that we all wanted to go out and make snowballs. So I thought: 'Well, God, if you exist it's because of you we're sitting here, so why don't you help us?' "Probably it was coincidence, but help came and the snow came for three days. I would have come to God sooner or later. It is impossible in our culture to look at art or read classic books without finding God everywhere. It may have been difficult for us to read 20th century foreign novelists, but all the classic books were translated into Russian and I read them. So the Bolsheviks were not so smart in destroying the memory of God."

"In Soviet society children quickly learnt to keep things to themselves and not to share information. And this lack of confidence made me lonely. So who can help the lonely child if nobody else does? Only God."

Living in Odessa on the Black Sea brought her into contact with diverse sections of society, from the intelligentsia to bandits and prostitutes. The mother of a close friend was a prostitute. "I learnt to understand almost all levels of our society," she says.

"The only level I could not understand was the KGB. I did not feel that they were human." After school she went to university in Odessa to study maths and physics. Education was part of the family tradition.

Then, at 19, she received instructions to go to the Odessa headquarters of the Komsomol, the Communist Youth League. She assumed they wanted to talk to her about the organization of the KVN (Klub Veselykh i Nakhodchivlykh), an inter-university competition of wit and humour. She was wrong. With an unsuitable wink and a nudge, she was really being asked if she would become a prostitute-informer, courting foreign visitors to Odessa. She refused point-blank.

"I was lucky in that I knew enough of what was going on to disobey and not sign anything. If I hadn't known what it meant to be a prostitute-informer, I might have swallowed the hook."

She was not, as she feared, expelled from the university, but a note was made on her records that she was unreliable. At the end of her third year when the rest of her class went to Poland for a field trip, she was not allowed to go. She considered she had got off lightly.

By now her poetry was becoming popular with her friends, who would copy her work and pass it on. One friend who encouraged her in her poetry became her first love, a Jewish boy who had been given permission to emigrate to Israel.

It was, like all classic first loves, doomed to sadness. But before he left to take the train to Israel he



The legacy: Irina Ratushinskaya now helps others. "Until the last political prisoner is free I cannot sit down and stare to the sky"

gave her a present of an 18th-century Bible, the Old and the New Testaments, printed in Old Church Slavonic. It took her six weeks to learn to read the ancient alphabet before she could read the Bible. From that moment she knew that she was a Christian.

From university she went into teaching, but found again that she could not accept the political slant which was required even to teach mathematics and physics, and so left and took a job in a laboratory. Still the poetry came. By now she knew the KGB was aware of her.

Then, on her 25th birthday, Igor arrived with a flower to suggest she leave Odessa and move in with him in Kiev. She accepted. Six months later they were married. Already known for her

writing in Odessa, Leningrad and Moscow, where she was known as "Rhythmsmith Irka", a dissident circle in Kiev began to open up to her.

Igor, a like mind and also a Christian, was printing and distributing illegal copies of banned books, while she continued with her poetry. They both knew that it was only a matter of time before the KGB came. In 1979, after a fresh clamp-down on dissidents, they applied to emigrate, but their application was not even considered.

On Human Rights Day, 1981, they were both arrested for the first time, for demonstrating with other dissidents around the statue of Pushkin in Moscow. The sentence was 10 days. But it was

no deterrent. Irina had expected to be arrested. Fifteen months later, on her 29th birthday, she was sentenced to seven years' hard labour. Her poetry was now too well-known for the KGB to ignore.

She came to London in 1987, after her "force-pardon". She chose Britain, she says, because while many countries sent invitations through the post, only the British did it through the British Embassy. The others never got through the Soviet postal system.

One day she would like to return to a free Christian Russia, but who can tell, she asks, what Russia will be like in even two years? In the West she has become a heroine, but when asked if she believes her parents are proud of her she does not answer directly. It is difficult

to speak to her mother because she does not have a telephone in Odessa. She is very guarded about speaking for them.

Irina began composing poetry before she was able to write. It was one of her favourite games. Now she has less time to write than ever and is struggling to finish a five-author book with her husband and other dissidents.

After her release from the labour camp she wanted only peace and quiet, but life has become increasingly hectic as she has travelled from country to country.

She was once helped and now she must help others. "Until the last political prisoner is free I cannot sit down and stare to the sky," she says.

by Ray Connolly

Continued from page 31

principle of all manner — may be brought closer by the observations from the Hubble.

As Professor Hawking suggests, Einstein's general theory of relativity, which describes the vast distances of the universe, and Planck's theory of quantum mechanics, which predict the movements of the smallest particles, do not fit together when the big is compressed into the small at the beginning of time.

Dr Giacomini will be hoping fully to emulate his Renaissance role model, Galileo, and join some of the most celebrated scientific baggage of his century. But that race has barely started yet.

One reason for the still-suppressed excitement among the Hubble scientists is that they have been hardened over the years by delays and disappointments. There have been difficulties with almost all the equipment on board, particularly with the cameras. The instruments are now more than 10 years old in design and the computers are less powerful than many a domestic desktop.

If the Hubble simply fails to work, as much less ambitious projects have done in the past, it could set back the funding of astronomy for a decade.

The astronomers console themselves with the fact that the roads to the great discoveries are rarely anything but rocky. We have stumbled for millenniums from truth to falsehood and back.

Greeks in the 3rd century BC knew that the Earth moved round the Sun. Three centuries later their successors thought the opposite — an error which was so compounded by religious and political pressures that it took 1,500 years before Copernicus returned mankind to the right path.

In 1610, Galileo proved that path was correct by being

both builder and architect. He looked through an early telescope and saw the moons circling around Jupiter, indicating that the Earth was not the centre of all things. But he risked persecution and imprisonment in the process.

Some critics of the Hubble project are irritated that the team should give itself such airs. "Galileo's was an act that changed man's whole nature philosophy," says Dr Robert Smith, another Englishman at Johns Hopkins University who is the unofficial historian of the space telescope. "I am sceptical that they can really do as much as that. It is a pity that they have to make the claims in order to get the funding."

The potential intellectual prizes are truly glittering, however. The quest to come close to the Creation may seem overweening to scientists who would rather spend the money on something more assured. But it certainly strikes a chord with the public — one good reason, in fact, for the American system of having such detailed political control over publicly funded science.

If anything could cause greater public excitement than the truth about the Creation, it is a true Apocalypse. Some cosmologists believe that the permanent forces of gravity pulling the universe together will one day be greater than the waning expansionary power of the Big Bang, and that at some point the universe will reverse its tracks towards the ultra-dense mass from which it exploded. Others think that the expansion will continue forever, albeit more slowly than before.

The Hubble telescope should help to tell us how much mass there is in the universe, and how much faster the galaxies travelled billions of years ago than they do now. We may thus learn if the end of the universe is nigh, and if so, how nigh.

Eternal questions of modern life

In the supermarket:
1) How long can I go on trying to open this plastic vegetable bag before people look at me oddly?
2) Would it be better off in the next-door queue?
3) Do I have time to turn back and get a light bulb?
4) Will everyone else think I've been greedy buying all these croissants?
5) Did I forget to have the carrots weighed, and will I therefore earn the ire of the entire queue as they all wait and wait for the bell to be rung, the sighing assistant to arrive and depart and, 10 minutes later, the exasperated cry of "36 pence" to be heard from a distant corner?
6) Where am I meant to put the trolley now that I have unloaded the items on to the counter?
7) Was it just me, or did everyone in the supermarket smirk when I moved my hands forward to push the doors that were then to turn out to be fully automatic?
In the clothes shop:
8) Why are those young ladies looking at my clothes with lips so pursed?
9) Did I detect laughter as I emerged from the cubicle in those trousers which were, after all, only slightly too tight?
10) Why does the assistant invariably put his head over the swing doors asking if he can be of any help just as I have pulled my trousers clean off?
In the shoe shop:
11) Why did the assistant shy away upon removal of my shoe?
12) Now that he is asking me to try walking normally, why have I forgotten how?
In the pub:
13) Will they all think it

In the car:
19) Whenever I attempt to park in a tight space, why is there a gang of youths in the vicinity with nothing better to do than chorle?
20) While we were waiting at the traffic lights, could the people in the neighbouring car detect that I was absent-mindedly mouthing along with a version of "Puppet on a String" by the Mike Sammes Singers on Radio 2, or might they have mistaken it for Brahms on Radio 3?
At the petrol station:
21) Why have I parked on the wrong side of the pump for the tank, and how do I act naturally while reparking, thus forestalling the contempt of my fellow motorists?
22) Dare I ask him to check the oil and water, and, if he mentions a word like "carburettor", will he guess from my equivocal response that I have no idea what it does or where it is?
23) Will the petrol start pumping before the nozzle is in the tank, flooding the forecourt and burning into flames?
24) When I reach for the fully loaded petrol pump, will the other drivers, more ecologically sound than I, all turn and hurl abuse at me?
25) What on earth made me buy that fluffy pink teddy (£2.95), a tuna and cucumber sandwich (95p), and a cut-price cassette of *Me and You and a Dog Named Boo and Other Greatest Hits by Lobo* (only £3.99) from the garage shop?
On the train:
26) Will the next person who comes into this too think that I created this mess?
27) Why does the oncoming ticket inspector make me feel so nervous



was me who played "Save Your Kisses For Me" on the juke-box?
In the street:
14) Will the nice man with the collecting box suspect that I am not really that interested in the shop window on the other side of the road?
15) Did anyone notice when I nearly tripped over?
16) Did I forget to do up my flies?
17) Was that really me reflected in that window just now?
18) If so, surely the window was distorted in some way?

and where on earth did I put that ticket?
28) And why is he now punching that ticket in such a suspicious manner?
In the restaurant:
29) When ordering the Filet de Veau en Feuilleté et Jus d'Asperges, do I say the whole thing, do I mumble "Veau, please", or do I flunk it and just say, "And I'll have the veal"?
30) How can I manage to keep up this expression of marvellous while they continue to flame my steak?
31) Did I forget to look thrilled to bits when the waiter raised the silver dome?
32) What's 12 per cent of £37.50?
33) While the waiter is refilling the dishes of the day, and I am nodding my head in assiduous contemplation, will he guess that I lost track five dishes ago and so will undoubtedly be choosing something from the written menu, making all his effort superfluous?
In the bank:
34) Why does my signature never look like my signature?
35) Surely they haven't asked me to wait a minute so as to place me at my ease while they call the police?
At the hairdresser:
36) Why do they always look so standoffish when they ask me where I last had it cut?
37) Why couldn't I think up any reply when he said, "Call this summer"?
At the gentleman's club:
38) Was that grunt directed at me?
39) How many times can I ring the bell for service before it appears rude, and what do I do then?
40) Are they just pretending that they haven't yet seen through me?

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EATING OUT

Don't be guided by Michelin stars, Jonathan Meades says, unless you want to sample the work of a Roux protégé

Seeing stars with the Michelin Man

It's not true that in order to get a Michelin star you have to perform on a caving couch with the Michelin Man. It's obviously not true — there is, for a start, no caving couch large enough and, besides, the Michelin Man is not that sort of guy — his appetites may be gross, but he likes his food cooked, sauced and presented under a dome. No, what you have to do to get a Michelin star in this country is to be a chef. Failing that you can always work for someone called Roux and then set up shop paying mimetic homage to this or that Roux. Then the Michelin Man will tip toe to your room and sprinkle stardust. Of course, anyone who subscribes to the Lottery Theory of Life will pooch-pooch this notion and suggest that the Michelin Man does nothing more than pick names out of a hat.

Either way, it's hardly worth getting worked up about the rather run results. This year Fatio has constipated Les Alouettes. I had not heard of this establishment before it was thus drawn to my notice. Nor had I heard of Claygate, Esher, yes, Claygate, yes, Claygate, no, William Kent worked at Esher, Vanbrugh and Patrick Gwynne at Claygate — which makes this an architecturally fecund day out from The Smoke. A night out suggests that Claygate is the disadvantaged or challenged neighbour; but, none the less, like most places in Surrey there's a bit to look at. The bit round the tiny green, for instance, is a typically pleasing slice of outer-suburban self-deception: it pretends to rusticity, villagehood, yokelhood. It possesses the beguiling and quintessentially Surrey quality of looking like an England created on an Ealing backlot circa 1949. In that retrospective dream, the site of Les Alouettes would, no doubt, have been that of a tea-room (Google Withers as the Dangerous Waitress, Miles Malleon as the Vicar who's a cake buff).

But the world has changed; we have (mercifully) abandoned cake culture, we have got cooking (to an extent). We have got to the extent that even the classic French guide acknowledges it. Big deal. Les Alouettes is OK, but the proposition that it's among the 30 "best" restaurants in Britain is to be taken

lightly. It is, of course, immodest to make this point — but the fact is that about 12 times as many people will read this column as will buy the Michelin guide, a fact that should be a reassurance to customers and a solace to the scores of restaurants that Michelin overlooks or fails to understand or marks down because they are not colleague-friendly. Fatboy does minimal harm, is only taken seriously because of his French paternity... Dunlop, Goodyear, the London Rubber Company? Their gastronomic pronouncements are doubtless fascinating, but no one leaps about on hearing them. My advice is — but then it would be bound to be — trust the one you're spreading your breakfast over at this very moment.

Les Alouettes is a respectable joint for businessmen, for the colleague who has just climbed the ladder from his Carlton to his Senator, whose self-esteem is bolstered by deferential service — and service does not come much more deferential than at Les Alouettes. However, the attentiveness is at least amiable. But it is a bore to have your wine shoved in a bucket halfway across the room, it is a bore to be interrupted by a bottle-bearing hand each time you take the merest sip — the waiters act as if they're on commission and their eagerness to push you on to a second bottle is transparent. Still, this is what M. Michelin wants, he looks like a two-bottle man. We drank an acceptable *grand cru* Riesling and succumbed to the salesmanship to the extent of taking port with the cheese. The cheese comes from Olivier in Boulogne and is commendable. It is served in the English manner with cream crackers, water biscuits, etc; this digression from French custom may or may not be an admission that the

bread is dismal. Otherwise the place's Frenchness is lavishly. Which is just how M. Michelin likes things to be.

The chef did indeed work for a Roux brother — Michel, the patron of the Waterside Inn at Bray — and it's from him that he picked up the practice of using banana as a vegetable, serving it with beef. That strikes me as belonging to dated novelty cooking and is, thankfully, atypical of Les Alouettes' repertoire which is generally characterized by caution; if there is such a thing as middle-of-the-road cooking, then it is to be found here. High competence and technical skill are abundant, but they are not allied to any obvious desire to excite the diner.

The preoccupation with eliminating rough edges means that certain dishes are wanly flavoured, a bit lacking in guts. And then there is the presentation — predictably there is an awful lot of it: potatoes are carved to look like tiny caps; already slender stalks of asparagus or spruce are cut along their length; perfectly rectangular buttons of carrot and, maybe, turnip (impossible to tell, it was flavourless) decorate a dish of similarly flavourless scallops and langoustines. Does the Michelin Man eat with his eyes? He may not look that way, I agree, but the evidence of this place is that he does. Which is not to say that much of the cooking doesn't taste good — it does, in an unremarkable way. Brill and mullet are, like most of the dishes, done with a buttery sauce; salmon is roasted and served with a well-made tomato and sorrel sauce; the vegetables include beetroot, carrot purée and boiled potatoes in a vinegar-butter sauce. Two items rose above the mean standard; a very intense asparagus mousse with another buttery sauce and a Catalan-style crème brûlée with prunes in it. The latter number was particularly fine.

Les Alouettes occupies a half-heartedly half-timbered Edwardian building of little distinction. Inside, it has been done out in a manner appropriate to its cooking — "tasteful", discreetly opulent, aspirantly classy. There are many hotspots of curtain and tablecloth. The tables are well spaced. The lights are low. The prices are high; two will pay at least £90.

LES ALOUETTES
★★★★★
7 High Street, Claygate, Esher (0372 64882)
£100. Major cards. Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat.
WAREHOUSE
No stars
Poole Quay, Poole, Dorset (0202 677238)
£50. Major cards. Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat.



And so to Poole. On the way there I was astonished to spot M. Michelin sleeping rough under agricultural polythene beside a breeze-block piggy. How he has fallen. Surrounded by the cylinder block of a defunct tractor and a pyramidal pile of asbestos tiles, he could easily have been taken for a load of old tyres. With hindsight I rather wish that I, too, had knipped down under the stars: the Warehouse on Poole Quay provided me with one of the most memorably inept dinners I've eaten for some time. The place has a lot going for it — it's a handsomely executed conversion of early 19th-century premises; it is situated on the quay overlooking the busy harbour; the staff is willing and friendly.

Not all the cooking was dire, but most of it had tendencies in that direction. This, admittedly, is not signalled by the *critiques*, *allot*, decent omelette and prawns on the bar. Their promise is of straightforward, fresh, robust dishes. They are deceivers. The chef appears to have been struck by a dose of *cuisine* — imagination. He's probably the victim of a catering college. Dishes are pre-prepared, incompetently reheated. "Warm" oysters with rubbery pasta and a creamy sauce arrived cold on a hot plate — they were, thus, not warm oysters. When they were served for the second time they were warm; this cavalier use of

(probably) a microwave oven strikes me as being potentially unsafe — but not, as it transpired, as unsafe as the many shards of oyster shell hidden in the pasta. Nor, for that matter, as unsafe as a lobster mousse which tasted of Brobot, i.e. of the ammonia that is released when crustacean shells are boiled for several hours. This disgusting dish was returned and was, quite properly, not charged for. A fish soup was terrible, too — an ochreous farrago of scales, bone and pepper. Dover sole was merely not as fresh as one might wish — fillets of the fish were fancily curled like a Forties hair-do or a Viennese loaf. A smoked salmon soufflé was cleverly baked in filo pastry, but had no flavour of the specified fish; rather, it was sour and overpeppered. So might I go on. The puddings are not entirely bad. I ate a crème brûlée with an industrial strength crust: the waiter said: "The chef's only finished cooking those off today." Presumably he had "cooked off" the other puddings during the previous week. This same waiter removed a finger bowl, saying: "That'll go in the stockpot." I believed him. The management was effectively apologetic about the mishaps. The wines are not greedily priced, the atmosphere is congenial. But take your own food. If you risk the house's you'll pay about £60 for two.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed: they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

INDIAN

Copper Chimney
19 Heddon Street, London W1 (01-435 2004)
★★★★★
The service is frightful — loud, off-hand, unbeflexibly sluggish. The cooking is good: see food below: a splendid dish of black beans; a vindaloo which has nothing but throat-ripping vinegar and chilli; and a superbly spiced chicken. The chicken is of that name; clear with chickpeas; tender fish. The cocktails are to be avoided. With beer or tea, £25.

Great Nepalese
49 Grosvenor Street, London W1 (01-368 6737/6835)
★★★★★
The cooking is of exceptional quality: barbecued lamb with garlic and coriander, dahl of black beans, cauliflower, coriander pickle, mango tuck, £25.

HAMPSTEAD

Carpaccio
118 Heath Street, London NW3 (01-435 2004)
★★★★★
French set menu place of a standard far superior to the majority of its kind. The service is less than smooth and the premises too small. Some of the cooking is good — notably beef ribs; puddings such as pear tart and an unlikely sounding sorbet of lemon and parsley. Everything comes in gargantuan portions. £20.

ZelW3
83 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 (01-794 7863/7864)
★★★★★
A rare example of Chinese cooking, very high prices and very tiny portions. But the cooking is sometimes quite inventive and invariably well-cooked — beef with long bean and soy sauce, scallops with ginger, deep-fried pork crackling, raw salmon and scallops with an odd sauce of soy and English mustard. About £20 to £25, much more if you drink.

Kenny's
70 Heath Street, London NW3 (01-435 6972)
★★★★★

Cajun restaurant with loud cajun music, a good cocktail, good beer, and some good cooking. Most dishes taste pretty much the same, i.e. hot and aggressive. £20.

7 Pond Street
7 Pond Street, London NW3 (01-435 1541)
★★★★★
A comfortable basement with a decent feel to it. The cooking lurches both in sources and standards. The Scottish haddock and potato soup called Oyster Skink is a great success, and so is a nicely judged dish of veal with noodles. Some less welcome. Good wine, £20.

SUSSEX

Lychgates
56 Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0424 212153)
★★★★★
Small and homely restaurant in part of a Victorian house in a pretty street of weather-boarded buildings. Accomplished and well-judged cooking, amiable service. The menu is very understated — when it says lamb casserole you get just that, but done with a sureness of touch that is remarkable. Impressive starters, delicious puddings. There's nothing very notable to drink. The prices are most reasonable. £25-£40.

La Vieille Auberge
17 High Street, Battle, East Sussex (0424 85171)
★★★★★
The cooking is almost, but not quite, held by its own oven. The ambition, Lamb with a tart of lamb's kidney and leeks, ravioles of crab — both suggest a desire to do a little more than the kitchen is perhaps capable of. £25.

Gordon Restaurant
Gatwick Airport, West Sussex (0293 518080)
★★★★★

A Hilton hotel in the middle of an airport with a serious restaurant. The cooking is highly accomplished — fresh, this too with sweetbreads, chicken and black pudding, but the service is less than perfect. The wine list is impressive, but the prices are high. A friendly service — hard to say if it's the best in the area, but it's a good one. £25-£40.

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DRINK

Soviet secrets for sale

Make a bid for the liquid treasures of imperial Russia, Jane MacQuitty writes

ERIC BEAUMONT



successful at producing table wines in the Crimea's warmth, he none the less mastered the "champagne" method, and when the Tsar Nicolas II appointed him as Massandra's winemaker in the late 1890s he had already won a medal at the 1900 Grand Prix in Paris for his Russian "champagne". The Russian court, and by all accounts the tsars too, were noted for their sweet tooth, and Massandra's winemakers were sent to the great dessert wine and fortified wine centres of Europe to learn their techniques.

Back home in Russia, the same methods were applied to Russian grapes grown in Crimean soil. It is these Russian imperial wines that are on sale at Sotheby's on Monday. Given the various fake wines

collections of supposedly great antiquity that have surfaced in recent years, the real question is whether the Massandra collection is genuine. After extensive tasting and questioning of the Soviets, Mr Molyneux-Berry is convinced that it is. And, having tasted six of the collection, I think I am too. Perhaps the most important criterion for endorsing the Massandra collection and its wines, of which the oldest is a 1775 bottle of Spanish sherry, is that it has been well documented since its inception.

Sale until the 1917 revolution, and hidden behind, bricked-up walls in the struggles afterwards, the collection has been moved only once in its life, immediately prior to the Nazis' arrival in 1941, and brought back again when they had gone in 1944.

Of the six Massandra wines I tasted, the best by far was the 1905 Livadia White Muscat, whose unusual mint and peppermint scent led on to an amazing, rich, luscious, sweet, minty-grapey taste. I was also impressed by the 1914 Massandra Malaga, whose deep red-brown hue and venous yellow rim had a splendid, concentrated, burnt caramel taste, and, again, an extraordinary bouquet, reminiscent of flowers, beeswax, and cherries and plums too.

Less enchanting was the musty 1935 Cuvée Rose Muscat, and the 1945-like 1945 South Coast Red Port. Mr Molyneux-Berry has had better bottles of both, and, like all old wines, those in the Massandra collection will vary from bottle to bottle. However, although not in the same league as the older wines, there was no mistaking the class present in the 1936 Cabernet Sauvignon, White Port, with its racy, cherry-like style, and the 1931 Ak-Danil Tokay, with its heady, caramelized character.

And why are the Russians selling this national treasure? Because, like everyone else, they need money — in this case, to buy new equipment for Massandra.

The Massandra Collection takes place on Monday at 10.30am and 2.30pm in the Large Gallery at Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1.

© Jane MacQuitty's wine holidays have been held since 1970.

DISCOVERY

Final frames in a family album

Next Thursday Sotheby's will auction one of the most fascinating historical finds of the century. The "Sokolov Archives", the documentation of the murder of the Russian Imperial family, were compiled by Nikolai Sokolov, for the White Armies after the capture of Ekaterinburg, the town in the Urals where the Romanovs died. The auction also includes letters, personal belongings and photographs.

There is, however, one extraordinary collection that will not be in this sale.

I came upon it a month or so ago in Tobolsk, Siberia, where Alexander Kerensky, the head of the Russian government after the February Revolution, sent the Tsar and his family in August 1917.

Here the Imperial family was lodged in the former governor's residence, a small mansion with large, airy rooms, and a small park. And if, by comparison with the splendour of the Romanov palaces, their life here was boring and constricted, their first three months in Tobolsk still allowed them comparative freedom and dignity. November, when Bolshevik soldiers were despatched to guard the revolution's most embarrassing prisoners, brought the beginning of real imprisonment, which culminated, in 1918, with the removal of the Tsar, his wife and their daughters, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, and son Alexis, to Ekaterinburg, where, in July, they were shot.

Today in Tobolsk there is a small museum in which a minute space is dedicated to the Romanovs. "It interests our children," said the young guide. "They love princesses. And the few Americans who have come here on business all ask about the Tsar." I asked if there was anything else. Reluctantly she admitted there was one more item, but it was kept under lock and key "downstairs". What was it? "An album," she said. "It is said to have belonged to one of the guards."

After consultation with the museum director, I was allowed to see the album in a discreet side room, where it was brought, in its box and wrapping, and later photographer Sergey Hatzov made copies. It contained a touching record of the Imperial family's last months of hope in their summer palace near St Petersburg and in Tobolsk.

We see two of the archduchesses earnestly wheeling a water barrel to the kitchen garden they had planted. We see the same two girls rowing, looking bored: we can almost hear the Empress telling them to get some exercise. Three of the girls stand, in identical white clothes, near a cabbage patch, one of them loosely, even forlornly, holding a little bunch of flowers. Why, one wonders, do they look so tense? The fully grown cabbages indicate the time of year: did they know the moment was close when they would be sent 1,800 miles away from their home? The photographer is the fourth archduchess, Maria. If the album "belonged" to a guard, it was because he stole it before the family was removed from Tobolsk. The warmest, most enchanting picture is of 16-year-old Anastasia playing the fool — as she apparently often did to cheer up the family — with her young brother delighted by her antics. He is carefully putting a toe in the water, while she, laughing into the camera, balances perilously backwards. They are — almost symbolically for those of us who know what was to happen to them — on a plank.

Gitta Sereny

Imperial Russian wives, page 36



Portraits of the Romanov family: Tsar Nicolas II saws wood with the children's Swiss tutor, Pierre Gilliard, left, in Tobolsk; and three of the sisters, from left, Tatiana, Anastasia and Olga



Last months of hope for the doomed Imperial children: Tatiana, left, and Anastasia go boating; Anastasia entertains Tsarevich Alexis; Maria, left, and Anastasia wheel a water barrel

CAMPUS

The foolishness of youth

Although the Conservative Party has been going through difficulties recently, at the undergraduate level there seem to be many more deep-rooted insecurities and worries.

In Oxford the Conservative Party split into two parts at the time of the student union elections. The group calling itself the Democratic Conservatives, finally unable to stomach what it saw as the extremism of the official Conservatives, stood for election and trounced its official counterpart in the poll.

In the Young Conservatives membership has fallen from 250,000 in the late 1950s to about 6,000 now. The organization has become discredited because of having what is perceived as a right-wing clique in control. Political debate at the national student level, within the party, is a joke. At a recent conference in the House of Commons, a discussion on student unions degenerated into a slanging match, with the Tory Reform Group being accused of being Marxist and the Conservative Collegiate Forum of being fascist. Both accusations are equally nonsensical and make student Tory politics look ridiculous.

Most worrying of all is the extremism and impracticality of the fringe, which can seem to be the main stream. At a recent joint conference on privatization of the Wessex area Conservative Collegiate Forum and Young Conservatives — which might reasonably be expected to be the progenitors of orthodox Conservative political thought and activity — a number of extraordinary motions were passed which would cause any moderate Tory to blench. The conference voted to privatize money, education, health care and emergency services; apparently, motions to privatize the Army and the courts were only narrowly defeated.

Why have the youthful Tories made such a hash of affairs? In Oxford the cause of trouble is, strangely enough, the success of the Prime

Minister. Her stamp is on the Oxford University Conservative Association because she has been successfully in office for such a long time, making it an organization which is slavishly devoted to her. Any questioning of government policy is seen as some kind of heresy. Indeed, at one meeting last term, the president of OUCA accused someone of being a Socialist for arguing in favour of voluntary membership of the National Union of Students, because that is not the official party line. It was this narrow-mindedness that led to the divide. Admirers of the Prime Minister had much sympathy for the Democratic Conservatives, not for what they said, but because they had the courage to challenge the view that it was treacherous to question her.



The problems of the Young Conservatives go much deeper. The great battles that were fought for many years to keep out the "far right" marginalized the whole organization. All the stories of secret bank accounts, cutting off telephones and bugging rooms made the YCs look like retarded prep-school children rather than the nation's future leaders.

The CCF, on the other hand, was born to cause trouble. It replaced the notoriously unsavoury Federation of Conservative Students and inherited some of its people. It is, in some ways, a play-pen for the loony right, in the hope that they will be stuck in there long enough to prevent them causing trouble elsewhere.

Neil Kinnock has made the Labour Party take some unpleasant medicine which has

removed its fanaticism. Perhaps it is time the Tories expurgated their youth movement in the same way.

A RECENT survey of 6,000 people aged between 16 and 19 claims to reveal that Britain is not going to have many entrepreneurs. This was deduced partly from the information that only 6 per cent wanted to bear responsibility, and a mere 5 per cent believed they could use their initiative.

One of the "experts" analysing these results commented: "Entrepreneurship is not for these youngsters. It is quite depressing that a lot of them are being turned out without much ambition."

This is very much in line with the current fashion that everyone ought to be an entrepreneur with enormous ambition. It shows how foolish fashion is. It only requires a moment's thought to realize what a bad idea it would be if everyone wished to be an entrepreneur.

A successful entrepreneur will be an employer rather than an employee. This means that, in a nation of entrepreneurs, either all will be self-employed with no additional staff, or a few will succeed and the majority will be disappointed failures.

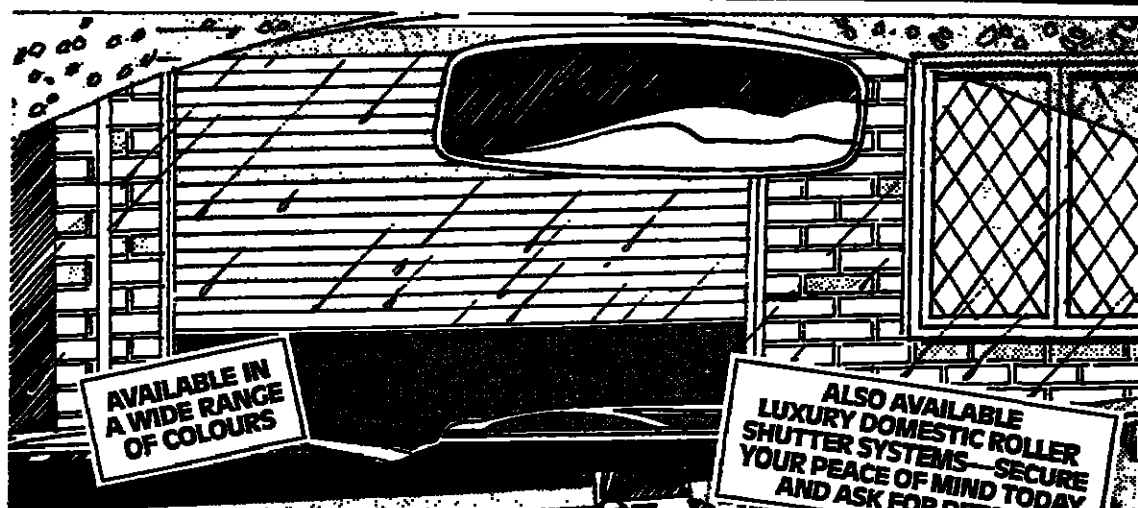
As it seems natural to hope that this country will be prosperous and contented, it would be more sensible to desire for it a limited number of ambitious people. If everyone wanted to be an entrepreneur and succeeded, businesses would be on such a small scale that the nation would not prosper; if all tried and most failed, it would not be content.

Therefore, what is needed is a small number of ambitious people who will provide the jobs and security that the overwhelming majority want. As this is what the survey seems to indicate, it is not in the least depressing, but bodes well for the future.

Jacob Rees-Mogg
The author is an undergraduate at Trinity College, Oxford.

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favourite
Portuguese recipes

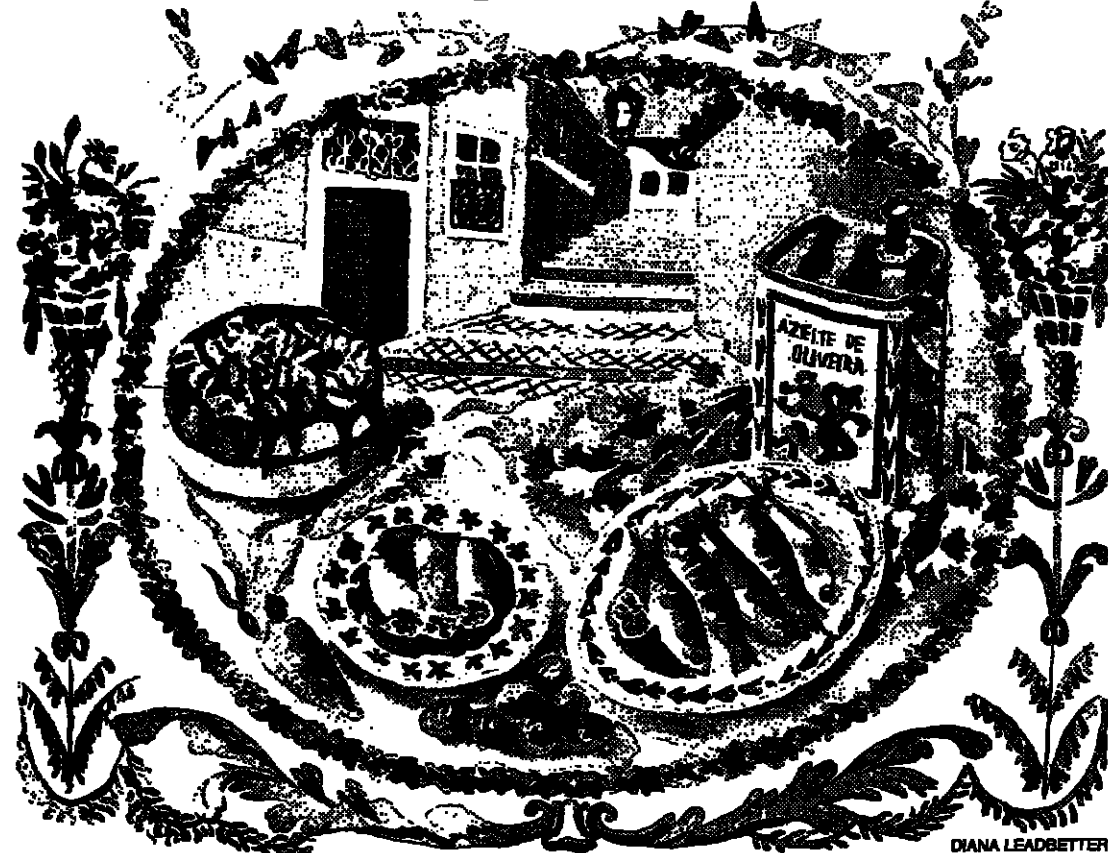
The recent balmy weather has brought out the barbecues. A whiff of charcoal immediately transports me to the steep, narrow streets of the Alfama and the Bairro Alto, the old quarters of Lisbon, which face one another on opposite hillsides above the River Tagus. With the spring, life begins to be lived outdoors again, and that includes cooking over small charcoal braziers. More often than not, fat sardines are grilled as a prelude to lunch or dinner.

Even after 20 years of visiting Lisbon, we still find places new to us in the heart of the city. Off the Rossio, in rua dos Sapateiros, is a beautiful art nouveau café, the Letaria a Camponessa, decorated with fine azulejos depicting various dairy scenes.

There are marvellous food shops and restaurants here too, but perhaps the best place to buy Portuguese specialties is Celeiro, in a street running parallel to the Rossio, on the right as you face the water. Here we stock up with fine Portuguese extra virgin olive oil, smoked sardines canned in olive oil, prunes and greenpeas from Elvas, almonds from the Algarve, pine nuts and Brazilian arrowroot.

The main "food" street for me, however, is rua Portas de Santo Antão, for its food shops, bars and restaurants. Gambinus, an elegant bar-restaurant, is a good place to stop for a glass of chilled white port and a handful of fresh almonds. At the top of the street is the Casa Solar dos Presuntos, one of the Lisbon's favourite restaurants. The chef, like all good Portuguese chefs, is from "the North". I have been told he was taken to Mexico by the Portuguese national football team when they played in the World Cup. Newspaper reports of the game were as full of details about the team as their progress in the tournament.

Today's recipes are ones that I have collected over the years, based on the simple yet immensely tasty dishes we have enjoyed in the small restaurants in the Bairro Alto and the Alfama. The stuffed squid recipe sounds much more difficult than it is. In fact, it takes me longer to write about it than it does to



DIANA LEADBETTER

actually clean the squid. I have had various versions, too. Sometimes the squid is stuffed with bread-crumbs, sometimes with rice. I prefer the looser texture the rice gives. Ham, garlic, peas, chopped tomatoes, spring onions all or some of these can be mixed with the rice. What is essential, though, is a really fruity, flavoursome extra virgin olive oil and, if possible, coriander leaves, indispensable if you want to capture the real flavours of Portugal.

The rabbit and red wine recipe is one from the North of Portugal, but since so many good chefs, it seems, are from there, it is not surprising to come across it in Lisbon restaurants. This is the way that lamprey is cooked too, and I have also cooked conger eel in a similar fashion, but you need to give the rice some cooking before you put the fish in the pot.

The cake recipe is the nearest I could get to one served by Adelaide, who cooked a marvellous farmhouse lunch when we visited the Herdade de Esporão, a huge wine and olive estate in the Alentejo, near Reguengos de Monsaraz, where wine has been produced since Phoenician times. We finally tore ourselves away from the charms of the 1987 Esporão, of which the wine-maker Luis Duarte is so proud, to sample Adelaide's cake and ask her about it. "Well, it is an ordinary cake," she told us - butter, eggs, sugar, flour and more butter and sugar for the sauce. It is the richest, sweetest cake I have ever tasted. Everyone asked for seconds.

Having seen fresh sardines at my local fishmongers this weekend, it was very tempting to go and join the queues of those buying barbecue equipment from the local hardware shop.

Grilled sardines
(serve 1 or 2 fish per person)
fresh sardines
extra virgin olive oil
1 lemon
salt, pepper
bay leaves

Scale the fish, and gut them if you wish. Brush with olive oil, squeeze on a few drops of lemon juice, and salt and pepper them lightly. Arrange them on a grill, and tuck bay leaves between them. Have the grill hot, and grill the sardines on both sides, turning them carefully, for 10 to 15 minutes in all, depending on the thickness. I like to serve them with olives, rings of raw onion and lemon wedges, or with a tomato salad. Serve with plenty of bread to help down any tiny bones.

Stuffed squid
(serves 4 to 5)
16-20 squid, about 4in/10cm long
3-4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, crushed
2 ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
8oz/230g cooked rice
½pt dry white wine
seasoning
2tbsp fresh coriander leaves or parsley, finely chopped

Clean the squid at the sink. Tip them all into a colander and rinse them. One at a time, holding the body of the squid in one hand, pull the head (the tentacle end) off with the other hand. Cut the tentacles off and set aside. Now deal with the body. Peel off the mottled skin and remove the two triangular flaps. Put these with the tentacles. Feel inside the cavity, and remove the "backbone", which looks like a strip of soft, clear Perspex. Then

squeeze the cavity like a tube of toothpaste to remove anything left inside. Rinse and set aside. Continue with the next, and so on, until you have a pile of white pockets waiting to be stuffed. Chop the tentacles and the flaps.

Heat a tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan, and cook the onion in the oil for a few minutes. Then add the chopped tentacles, flaps and garlic. Stir until the squid becomes opaque. At this point, add the chopped tomatoes, the seasoning, some of the herbs and the cooked rice. Mix in and remove from the heat. Allow to cool. Spoon the rice mixture into the squid, until loosely stuffed. Secure the end with a cocktail stick or toothpick.

Butter or oil a flat ovenproof dish, and arrange the stuffed squid in a single layer. Pour the wine over the squid, and trickle the rest of the olive oil on top. Cover with foil or a butter paper, and bake in the middle of a pre-heated oven, 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4, for about 25 minutes.

Serve, sprinkled with more fresh herbs, straight from the baking dish, with a green salad to accompany it.

Baked rabbit and rice in red wine
(serves 6 to 8)
2lb/900g rabbit joints
pinch of cinnamon
pinch of nutmeg
1 large onion
2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 rashers smoked streaky bacon
2tbsp port
2tbsp red wine vinegar
1lb/455g rice
1 bottle/750ml good dry red wine
1 bay leaf
1tsp peppercorns
9tbsp/250ml chicken stock or water

Wipe the rabbit joints, lightly season them with cinnamon and nutmeg and put to one side. Peel and slice the onion and fry it in the olive oil in a large heavy casserole. Remove and discard the rind from the bacon, cut it into matchstick-sized pieces, and fry with the onion. Push these ingredients to one side, and fry the pieces of rabbit until browned. Remove everything from the casserole, and put to one side while you deglaze it with the port and wine vinegar, adding a little water if necessary to get up all the cooking residues on the bottom. Put the rice in the casserole, pour in the red wine, and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat, and put in the rabbit pieces, onion and bacon bits, as well as the bay leaf and peppercorns. Pour on the chicken stock, bring back to the boil, stir once, and cover and cook in a moderate oven for 1½ hours, or until the meat is tender and the rice is cooked.

Note: This recipe can also be adapted to chicken and duckling.

Caramel walnut cake
6oz/170g unsalted butter
½lb/110g light muscovado sugar
3 eggs, separated
2tbsp golden syrup
8tbsp full cream milk
½lb/230g self-raising flour
pinch of salt

For the caramel filling and topping
½lb/340g light muscovado sugar
4-6tbsp single cream
2oz/60g unsalted butter
½lb/110g walnut halves

Butter two 8in/20.5cm sandwich tins, and line with greaseproof paper. Cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks, one at a time to prevent them from curdling, sprinkle on some of the measured quantity of flour, and mix it thoroughly after the addition of each egg yolk. Mix in the syrup and milk, and then fold in flour and salt. Whisk the egg whites to peaks, and then gently fold them into the cake batter with a metal spoon. Divide the mixture between the cake tins and level the surface with the back of a spoon. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for about 30 to 35 minutes. Test by inserting a warmed skewer, which should emerge clean if the cakes are cooked through. Remove from the tin and cool on wire racks. The cakes, when cold, can be stored in an airtight container and assembled the next day.

To make the caramel, put the three ingredients in a saucepan, and heat gently until the sugar has melted. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously, and boil for seven minutes. Away from the heat, beat the caramel to thicken it. Sandwich the two cakes with some of the caramel and chopped walnuts. Pour the rest of the caramel over the top of the cake, and decorate with walnut halves.

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Learning processes

AS WITH most skills, cooking is best learnt through hands-on experience, working with a teacher who is more experienced than you. You learn to cook with your senses: you smell when the oil is hot, taste the difference between raw flour and cooked flour in a sauce.

I have listed below those courses that I would happily attend. In two cases, I have an interest to declare: on October 31 I shall be cooking at Farthinghoe, and from July 9-11 I shall be teaching at Ballymaloe.

Lenth School of Food and Wine: 21 St Alban's Grove, London W8 5BP (01-229 0177). Principal: Caroline Waldegrave. A variety of courses including, for £250, a one-week course on low-fat cookery from June 25-29 and, from July 2, one-day demonstrations including Italian cookery and vegetarian cooking (£45 per day).

Cookery at the Grange: The Grange, Whitley Vineyard, Whitley, Frome, Somerset BA11 3LA (037 384 579). Principal: Jane Crosswell-Jones. The prospectus includes a full week intensive course, "Basics to Bismarck", which costs £920 for residents and £820 for non-residents, and four-day courses costing from £228.

Catherine Blakeley's Cookery Courses: Arlington House, Station Road, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7SN (0552 812852). Principal: Catherine Blakeley. One-day demonstration £18, weekend residential courses £85, and mid-week residential courses £175. Farthinghoe Fine Wine and Food: The Old Rectory, Old Lane, Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northants NN13 5NZ (0295 710018). Principal: Nicola Cox. One-day demonstrations on a wide variety of topics including vegetarian cookery and using the microwave (£25.50). Courses start again in the autumn.

The Ballymaloe Cookery School: Kinneth, Shanagarry, County Cork, Republic of Ireland (353 21646 785). Principal: Darina Allen. Apart from appearances by guest cooks, the courses are based on the Ballymaloe style of cooking, using the abundant fresh produce of that corner of the republic. Prices range from £65 for the one-day Christmas cooking courses, to £2,750 for the 12-week certificate course.

Vacances Cuisine, Domaine Les Laurons: 83570 Entrecasteaux (010 33 9404 4977). Principal: Sarah Beerbohm. One-week cooking holidays in the heart of Provence, where you are taught to make the classic dishes of Provençal cuisine. The course includes some meals at local restaurants and a visit to a busy restaurant kitchen. The cost is £845, sharing a double room, not including travel to Provence.

Les Ecoles Roger Vergé: Ecoles de Nice, Hotel Beau Rivage, 06300 Nice, and Ecoles de Mougins, Restaurant L'Amandier, 06450 Mougins (010 33 93 753570). A one-week course, for about £187, includes daily classes, a visit to the market, and a "cuisine du marché" class, all based on Roger Vergé's *cuisine de soleil*, a taste of Provence. Visitors to the area can also join two-hour cooking classes, held every afternoon and Saturday morning, by booking 48 hours in advance.

F. B.

FOOD

Supermarkets hope to recapture the flavour of the pre-prepackaged meat era, Charles Hennessy writes

One man's meat...

Cheer up! Stress ruins the crackling.



GED.

There was a time when to shop for meat was to take part in some staid rite. Under a sign that read, in neo-Gothic lettering, Family Stevens Butcher, you stepped, on sawdust, into an arena furnished with worn scrubbed wood, marble, tiles, and bald, cold carcasses hanging from hooks. When those ran out, more were brought from behind a door as solid and important as you'd find anywhere outside a bank vault. It was a place of intricate surgery performed by ruddy-faced men with flashing dangerous knives.

Such places still exist, but mostly we buy our meat where we buy everything else - supermarkets - and, like everything else in supermarkets, it comes film-wrapped in handy trays, chilled instead of *chilled*. It is hardly surprising if the conversion exists that the stuff, somehow, doesn't taste the same; that chops you've seen chopped are somehow tastier.

Progress has been made since the days when all supermarket meat, like supermarket tomatoes, looked too red, too fresh, too shiny and tasted of nothing much. English cuts began to give way to immer, daintier French translations and foreign exotica such as *noisettes d'agneau* and *pauillettes de veau* appeared alongside fat-wrapped string-tied *ris de veau*.

What were the secrets that allowed the traditional high street butcher to produce tender, juicy, tasty meat? Living across the road from a flagship Sainsbury, I have been well placed to observe that company's efforts to reintroduce something of what we're pretty sure we used to find at Mr Stevens (and Son).

First, those French cuts became Gourmet Cuts, priced somewhat higher than your ordinary Anglo-Saxon variety. Then, a couple of years ago, something called Traditional Beef made its appearance on the shelves. This turns out to

be the result of more than a year's effort by Sainsbury, employing the skills of a "meat technologist", to reproduce the methodology of the traditional butcher on the scale demanded by mass marketing.

The first key to the secret, to nobody's great surprise, was found in the raw material. Sainsbury worked closely with suppliers, agreeing on detailed specifications and working to improve the basic product. Then it rediscovered ageing, or maturing. Meat hung on the bone is more tender, more toothsome. Succulence in meat, they say, comes only

with ageing. Cut meat too early and what you get, inevitably, is tough meat, however good the original carcass.

You have to have some bite in a piece of meat, of course: "tenderness with texture" is the stirring battle-cry. You can, in fact, induce tenderness in meat by heating the daylights out of it, but in doing so you destroy the connecting tissues that give it its character. Sainsbury's Traditional Beef is aged for two weeks on the bone and one week in the package before going onto the shelves. More recently introduced, its Tenderloin Pork and Lamb are tenderized by

the same methods, using rather shorter maturing times.

Safeways is on the same tack and agrees with the optimum maturing time - 14 to 21 days - but not on the method. Tests reveal, it claims, that there is no perceptible difference in flavour or tenderness between meat matured on or off the bone, so they mature in the pack. A Safeways innovation, now offered in 10 stores, is organic beef and lamb. I've tried the beef and it is very palatable.

Wairrose, too, has been going backwards to make progress, and the result is Traditional English Pork. It starts with the farmers and breeders, who say they rear their pigs in small groups, in the field or in housing that provides natural conditions of daylight, fresh air and abundant straw. There are specialists to conduct the pigs to the chop with the minimum of stress, cushioning the final blow and ensuring the tenderness of the meat, which is affected by muscular tension.

What supermarkets have over the small shop, we're told, is the price advantage that comes with bulk buying, huge markets and all that. Leg of lamb in my local Sainsbury last week cost from £2.78 to £2.92; at traditional Rudds, nearby in Kensington, it was a mere £2.20. And chunk chops at £4.26 compared with £3.30. Oh well, that's just me having my traditional beef.

Britain as well as it does in continental Europe or North America. It has not taken off like cherry tomatoes or Little Gem lettuce (both pioneered as commercial propositions by Marks & Spencer). That, Mr Ward thinks, is because chicory is still too dry and bitter for the British palate.

The answer, perhaps, is that quite a few Britons have yet to master the art of providing salad dressings worthy of the salads now available. We have come a long way from plain lettuce with salad cream.

Robin Young

Red, white and green

ONCE upon a time salads were green. Now they are technicoloured. The latest addition to the rainbow alliance on the salad shelves is red chicory. Next year will bring red celery (of which Safeway has already had a little) and white cucumbers. Quite possibly there will be a new hue of capsicum, too, to set beside the existing green, red, purple, yellow, white and orange. It could be striped.

The red chicory (now on sale at Sainsbury and Tesco) is an almost natural consequence of the introduction here of radicchio, the bitter

red endive of Verona, which resembles a dark red lettuce. In radicchio there is already a variegated variety, the Castelfranco, its green leaves patterned with red spots and streaks.

Radicchio is grown from seed and harvested. The white chicory we buy is treated differently. It is grown from seed in an open field to produce a root, which is then lifted and stored, before

growth is started again, in the dark. The new blanched shoot which the root then produces is the "chicon", which we eat.

The red chicory - bred by the Dutch by crossing radicchio with "witloof" (white leaf) chicory - is grown in the chicon method, and the heads have the same tightly rolled, cigar-like tip as chicory. The leaves, though, are fringed with bright red.

Red chicory costs more.

That, says Graham Ward, the managing director of Home Grown Salads, which is marketing it, is because the variety does not yet give shoots of consistently even size. "You have to throw half of them away to get the size the market wants," he says.

In Britain that means chicons of about 3-4oz each. On the Continent you can see chicons twice that size. Chicory does not sell in

Sounding out the cornets

ABOUT the best that can be said of most of the £648 million worth of ice-creams sold in Britain during 1989 is that they were sweet and cold. Ice-cream? The description is legal, but hardly honest. Most of the products sold in Britain are made from vegetable fats and contain little or no dairy produce. When Britain joined the EC in 1975, a special dispensation was granted so that our manufacturers could continue to call their non-dairy products ice-cream.

On May 9 a new ice-cream parlour will open in London. Haggen-dazs on the Square will bring one of America's favourite top-quality ice-creams to Leicester Square, in a high-class parlour fitted out at a cost of £500,000.

When challenged to compare the company's product with their own vanilla ice, 12 of Britain's top chefs voted Haggen-Dazs their second favourite. The winning ice-cream was made by Beth Coventry, the chef at Green's Restaurant, London SW1. At the time of tasting, however, the American-made ice cream was about two months old and the other ices had been made that day. The secret of its success, says managing director Tim Meadow-Smith, is in the ingredients - fresh cream, fresh skimmed milk, egg yolks, raw cane sugar, with nothing else added.

The parlour will offer 18 flavours of ice-cream and frozen cream bars dipped in Belgian chocolate then rolled in one of eight toppings, such as roasted almonds or toffee-coated crisped rice. At about £1.70 for the bars and £1 for cones or cups (take-away prices), the product is not cheap.

Six years ago the Milk Marketing Board hit on the idea that farmers should turn their surplus milk into ice-cream. Loseley had already

paved the way. In 1968, the company began making cheese from skimmed milk left over after the cream had been removed. It progressed to yoghurt, and then to ice-cream. Now it produces 6 million litres of dairy ice-cream every year. As the public becomes increasingly health conscious, the Loseley policy of adding no artificial preservatives has become an important selling point. The freshness of the ingredients is another. At Charles Burrell's Castle Dairy, near Horsham, Sussex, ice-cream is produced in a 250-year-old barn, lined with plastic-coated steel and insulated to form a modern plant of the highest standards. It is only a few steps from the bay where his cows are milked.

In the summer of 1989, manufacturers of real dairy ice-cream recorded average sales increases of 40 per cent. Since sales of non-dairy ice-cream rose by only 8 per cent, it appears that customers are willing to pay that little bit extra for "the real thing".

Farmers often begin producing ice-cream as a means of increasing the value of their milk, and then become passionately involved.

These days, Lyons Maid makes 1.5 million litres of Baskin-Robbins ice-cream under licence from the American parent company. Dayvilles came to Britain in 1975 and pioneered American-style ice-cream parlours, selling 31 flavours.

Since a management buy-out in 1985, like Baskin-Robbins, Dayvilles is again opening ice-cream parlours all around Britain, inspired by the recent success of the industry. Once ice-cream was considered a summer treat for children, but last year research revealed that, for the first time, adults are the main consumers.

Geraldine Ranson



PETITE LIQUEUR is definitely a bridge too far.

After our crew had been well and truly beaten the shops and I with our baggages in bar of course went for a consultation shop-up at the Savoy Grill.

Needless to say a fine time was had by all. Especially when Squiffy Birchcliffe stung from the CHANDELIER and landed head first on the street trolley.

Philippa and I, however, were a little more reserved in our conduct and tucked off our meal with a bottle of ICY COLD Petite Liqueur.

Al, that unmistakable blend of Bordeaux wines and fine old COGNAC, blending from my tongue, only lingering taste of the Thames.

THINK PETITE. Petite Liqueur. From the house of Moët & Chandon.

PETITE LIQUEUR

MOËT & CHANDON

Ammond from the club

CRIME

arcel Berlins

Crime Club (not really a newsletter for aficionados started in 1930, at the detective story's 25th birthday) is a book of Agatha Christie and other writers among its early and it has continued to come of the best crime novel ever since.

of Diamonds (Collins), celebrates the Crime Club's jubilee with a splendid of short stories, written on occasion, from 13 of its stable of authors, which Robert Barnard, Sarah L. Mike Ripley, John Mal-Elizabeth Ferrars, who with Collins for more than 50 books.

ld Hill, Collins's current on stunning form in the e of the Yorkshire police Superintendent Dalziel (ed Dee-ell) and Inspector At the beginning of Bones lence (Collins, £12.95) as returned moodily from ome, even more sensitive stoning than before. The alziel, retching into a ter a drinking bout, thinks en a murder, and pursues, s usual combination of mess and noise. He's also s bizarre suicide letters; presentation of the York Plays is permeated with overtones. The climax is ing.

Canadian Eric Wright im- with every book. A Sen- ase (Collins, £11.95) has 's Inspector Charlie Salter or the emotional secrets of rently respectable massage : with famous clients, newly deceased body is ed in her bath tub by a Salter makes waves in and academic; at home, his haves strangely and sus- . Characterization and are impeccable.

James Zapt and the Don- y, by Michael Pearce (Col- 95), is the third delightful set in British-ruled Cairo ginning of the century. A an disappears while taking the crowded terrace of rd's hotel; later a British anishes identically. The Captain Owen, head of the D. secretariat through fa- heurs of Cairo society, d low, in search, Pearce information with a ally light touch, and the s skillfully integrated into sphere of place and period.

THIS is really a book about Athenian men. The women of Athens are invisible and inaudible to us. Beyond a few physical details, we cannot recover the objective reality of their lives, still less what they themselves thought about it. All surviving writings and (so far as we know) all physical representations, were the work of men. However, if we approach this man-made material from the viewpoint of the social anthropologist, we can, Just believe, find out quite a lot about the ways in which Athenian men thought of women, and the place they assigned them in their concept of society.

He starts with the roughage - politics and legal capabilities. Experts in the field will find the material here, as elsewhere in the book, familiar (his modest description "a work of synthesis" is to that extent correct), but the angle of approach opens up some novel vistas.

Women's exclusion from active politics put them, in one set of polarities, among the ruled rather than the rulers, a role apparently reflected in private life by their totally sheltered and legally subordinate situation, under the authority of a head of household. But since legitimate birth was a condition of inheritance rights and (probably) citizenship, men were effectively obliged to defend their womenfolk's interests, in order to protect their own social and political existence. What from one angle might look like male paternalism, from another looks very like sheer self-preservation. Appeals, in law-court speeches, to consideration for the feelings and

Old, old story for women

welfare of women have as their underlying concern what the men would get out of it.

So, when an Athenian man declares his devotion for wife or mother, and his respect for her wishes, may we simply dismiss this as cynical sentimentality? Of course not; as Just points out, for an emotional ploy to work, there must be some basis of commonly acknowledged reality. Some mar-

Jane F. Gardner

WOMEN IN ATHENIAN LAW AND LIFE

By Roger Just
Routledge, £30

A woman had no choice whom, or even whether, to marry, and could be moved from one husband to another willy-nilly, to suit male purposes - usually financial, rather than sexual. Marital boredom need not be a problem, at least for the man. There were plenty of socially acceptable alternatives: foreign mistresses (only the Athenian really down on his luck would let his sister live as a concubine rather than a wife), party-girls and prostitutes, both slave and free. Un-

married men had the same range available; and for them dating and "going steady" with social equals

was replaced by homosexual relationships, complete with the double standard (remember that?) about actually doing it. Differences of age and experience could raise enormous barriers. Athenian men tended to marry late, but to marry off their women as young as possible. Men lived out in the world of politics, business, and ideas; their wives' experience and concerns were entirely domestic. In

Xenophon's *Oikonomikos* ("On Household Management") one of Socrates' stooges admits that there is virtually no one to whom he talks less than to his

wife. The rest of the treatise is taken up with thirtysomething Ischomachos's total recall of the training course of lectures he gave his child- bride, aged 14, on her duties (including career motivation). It is pleasing to note that Ischomachos's real-life widow made a highly scandalous second marriage, and perhaps had some fun after all.

Wives may not have found marriage too bad. It gave them the best career and highest status available, and some security. Extra-domestic sexual partners were not

in competition for their position, and henpecking, it seems, could keep some husbands away from the slave-maids.

Also, wives had ways of hitting back, or so men feared. Comedy, that exorcizer of fears, is full of men's neuroses about women's randiness, undetected adulteries, faked pregnancies, drunkenness, and general failure to subscribe to the proper values of the marital enterprise. All of these sometimes happened in reality, but they undeniably were part of men's stereotyped idea of women, formed under the constraints of their own idea of themselves.

Just neatly draws these and other facets of the composite image of women, as creatures defective in rationality and self-control (and therefore bracketed by Aristotle with slaves), that can be found dispersed through literary sources of various types. He shows how all ultimately depend upon the self-image of men arising from the social system which they them-

selves had created. Prisoners of their own ideals, Athenian men (= citizens) aimed to be free, self-governing (therefore rational), governing others. Women were among the others, so "naturally" were the opposite - subordinate, incapable of self-control, irrational - and were therefore appropriately assigned to the position in society that men had allotted them. The idea that independence in women was a menace to the social order helped create the fictional monsters that threatened civilized life, such as Euripides' *Bacchae* and his *Medea*, and the Amazons.

Victoria Glendinning visits Amis-land

Life through a mist of whine

"ISN'T it terrible," says someone in this novel, "how when you find out more about someone you've known a long time and thought you knew all about, they're always worse than you thought before, never not as bad?" As readers, we have known Kingsley Amis a long time, so cannot be blamed for covertly finding similarities between him and his latest creation, Harry Caldecote - a retired librarian (the posh, private kind, not from a public library). The novel sets out to justify Harry; everyone needs him, however impossible he is. He and his circle are made for each other in some horrible but inescapable way.

Harry has two ex-wives. He lives with his widowed sister, and has a loose sexual arrangement with an old friend called Maureen. He is a senior member of a club called the Irving, "just round the corner from the Gar- rick". Harry is a slob, but he is, the author insists, a good guy. Like everyone else in this book, he is motivated by the boredom and fear in varying proportions, but he also feels "endlessly, boringly, inadequately" responsible for a whole string of hangers-on, ex-wives and step-children, who can't do without him. They all drink a lot (the action, if that's what it is, centres on the local pub), telephone a lot, borrow money a lot, and visit one another complainingly, using mini-cabs all the time.

There is a blurred messiness about their days, and about the erstwhile links of marriage, sex, or hatred that still unite them, as there is about the language in which all this is conveyed. The sentences are like lumpy groceries, waiting to be unpacked from the mishapen bags of their paragraphs.

Here for example is Bunty, a distressed lesbian, thinking about Piers, the sponging cad who is in her flat: "After all he was one of her only bits of family, not very close, true, but no more than Harry Caldecote's son by his first marriage, and Harry being what to this day it took her a couple of seconds to work out in her head, her stepmother's divorced husband, but still."

The Asians who run the "news-agent's-cum-tobacconist's-confectioner's-delicatessen-cum-video-library-cum (from next week)-dry-cleaning-establishment" use a formal, educated English, in which to discuss the pathetic habits of the native British whom they serve. But Harry and his raffishly ex-upper-middle-class circle are not

only ex-wives, ex-husbands, ex-lovers. They are also ex-articulate, rambling on in Bunty's kind of shambling allusive colloquialism - even Harry the scholar and bibliophile, and Freddie, his humble, half-damaged brother, who was a poet in the 1950s, and even the invisible narrator.

It is not so much stream of consciousness as partially blocked drain of consciousness. What blocks the drains is disappointment, inertia, and drink. Thirty-five-year-old Fiona, the niece of an ex-wife of Harry's, subsists on white wine and the random attentions of mini-cab drivers and gamblers - including a lout called Keith, who has stepped for a moment out of Martin Amis's last novel to make a guest appearance in his father's ("Yeah, cheers").

This book is worth persisting with for the sake of islands of precision that illuminate the fog. Fiona's addiction to alcohol is transmitted with a clarity as chilly

as her white wine should be. The novel is set in an area of north London that is so precisely recognizable, (as was Notting Hill in *London Fields*, to which this book seems a paternal response) that Amis's gestures in the direction of fictionalizing it - by calling a restaurant Odette's instead of Odette's, for example - are purely decorative.

Kitchen noises are described with an obsessional precision, and there's a matching set of precisely defined outdoor noises, louder and more threatening. There is one piece of dazzling precision-engineering in the shaky structure of the novel itself, and it's to do with sex. The terrifyingly conscientious Desirée gives hen-pecked husband Freddie a pedicure, which he appreciates in a passive kind of way. Half a dozen pages later, she suggests "a nice early night" - which implies, as the author explains, something it would be "only fair" to call sexual activity, better guessed at than described. "Nevertheless something must be said." What is said, little though it is, is all too graphic because words and images already planted in the reader's mind in the apparently innocent account of the pedicure session become reactivated to illuminate the "nice early night".

Are such flashes of technical brilliance worth ploughing through all those mindless drinking sessions? Harry, sustained by his sister's unsentimental understanding, is grateful, in a cruel world, for what he can get. Me too.

Rabbiting on for the sake of the pictures

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

FURTHER TALES OF LITTLE GREY RABBIT

By Denis Judd
Illustrated by Margaret Tempest
Collins, £9.95

ALISON Uttley was liable to get cross when anyone tried to compare her to Beatrix Potter. She rejected any suggestion of influence, and claimed that her stories about Little Grey Rabbit & Co came largely from her own upbringing as a country child.

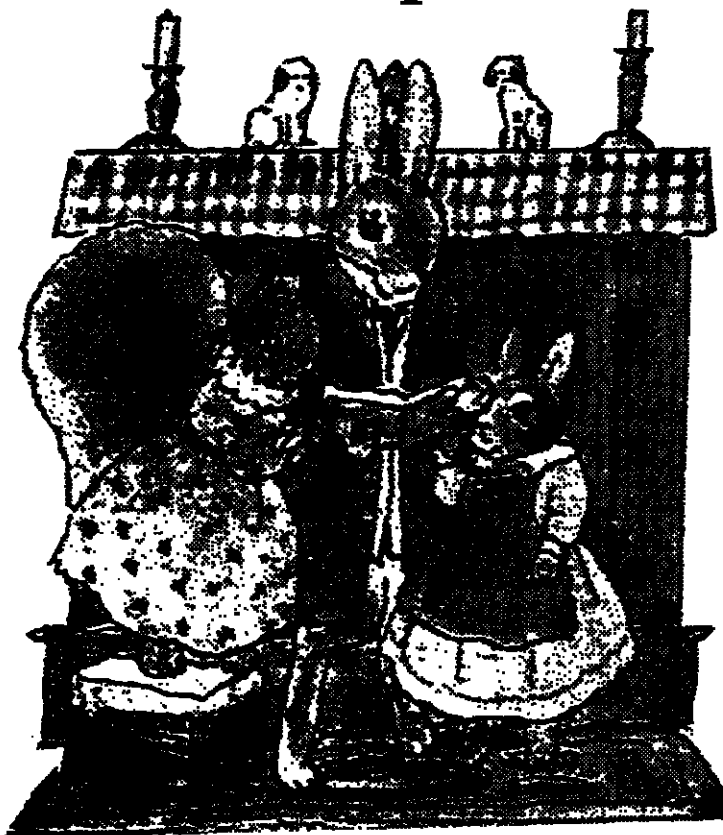
The truth of that assertion is not necessarily to her advantage, however. For despite recurrent local colour in her books - sycamore keys for doors, baking hedgehogs in clay - her stories are diffuse where Beatrix Potter's were shapely, her language slack rather than keenly controlled.

Moreover (another thought that riled her), what gave the Little Grey Rabbit books their enduring character was not so much her stories as Margaret Tempest's illustrations - subdued, chintzy, but redolent of a Metroland cosiness that was the last escape of the 1930s.

Now, in unexplained circumstances, 60 colour-sketches by Margaret Tempest for the Little Grey Rabbit books have been discovered. They are not fully finished, and, indeed, their very roughness gives them a childlike charm, but since they are all hitherto unpublished, Messrs Collins have had the notion of getting Denis Judd,

Mrs Uttley's biographer, to make up some Uttley pastiches into which they could be fitted.

Mr Judd says that he felt some disquiet over this; but he need not have done so. Simply because of its flaccid narrative style, the Little Grey Rabbit formula is eminently imitable; and by preserving the animals' stereotyped characterization, and by making occasional references to events in the original series of stories, Mr Judd proves a persuasive substitute for his model. Rabbit, Squirrel, and Hare remain in their curious *ménage à trois*; postman Robin and Milkman Hedgehog continue to call; threats from the Wild Wood stay suppressed. Even so, Margaret Tempest is still the one who justifies the exercise.



The curious *ménage à trois*: Squirrel, Hare and Little Grey Rabbit

QUICK LIST

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

Adam, Eve, and the Serpent, by Elaine Pagels (Penguin, £4.99) How the early church came oddly to regard sexual desire as sin.

The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien, edited by Humphrey Carpenter and Christopher Tolkien (Unwin Hyman, £6.99) Daft old thing.

A Turn in the South, by V. S. Naipaul (Penguin, £4.99) Below the Mason-Dixon line, observed by a sharp and original eye.

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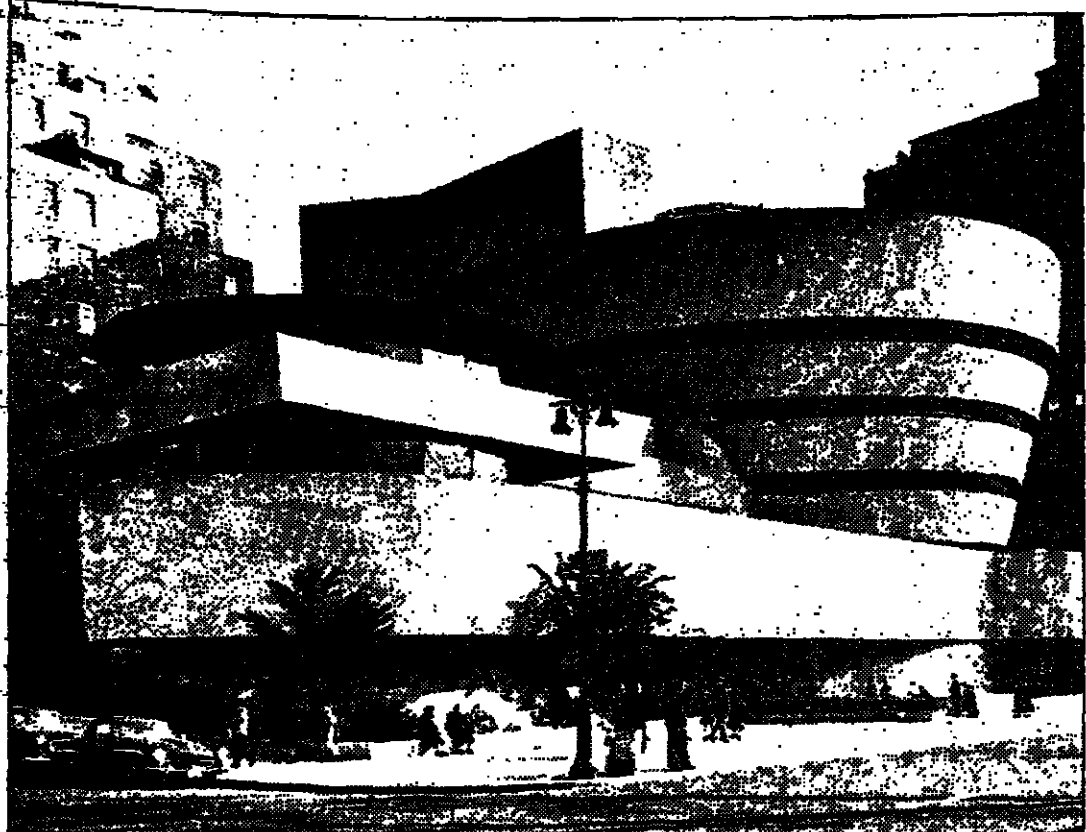


Out now in Collins paperback £12.95

THE ARTS

Frank Lloyd Wright's visionary projects continue to come to realization, more than 30 years after the architect's death. Paul Moor reports from California

Dreams a mile high



Guggenheim Museum, New York: Wright redesigned it six times to meet building restrictions of the period

Driving south on US 101, about 20 miles before the Golden Gate Bridge leads into San Francisco, the motorist comes to a rise housing a building of western American architecture. It is the Marin County Civic Center, and to the informed eye it instantly evokes one name: Frank Lloyd Wright.

Characteristically, Wright's vast structure blends into its environment with exceptional harmony. It houses, among other things, a public library, a justice administration - even a jail. Aaron Green, Wright's San Francisco disciple who brought the project to completion, says that when Wright first studied the site, he announced: "I'll bridge these hills with beautiful arches."

The greatest of American architects died three years before the completion of the Civic Centre in 1962. One building in the grounds currently houses an immense exhibition, "Frank Lloyd Wright: In the Realm of Ideas". It comes from the Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, Arizona, where the

great man's work is carried on by the single-minded passion which characterized his disciples during his lifetime.

Wright - the prototypical genius, well ahead of his time - completed about 1,000 projects, an astonishingly high number. If it saddens the visitor to see "Unbuilt" on the labels identifying so many of the schemes displayed here, it is consoling to know that many others were completed.

The exhibition contains 160 sketches, completed drawings, huge photographs, and scale models of outstanding Wright works. But the high point is an outdoor exhibit: a full-scale realization of what his creator called the Usonian Automatic House.

High on Wright's list of aesthetic principles stood his proclamation of "the destruction of the box" - the eradication of masonry barriers traditionally dissecting living space into individual cubicles. He also revelled in undisguised natural materials - concrete, metal, wood - and for his Usonian house he used plain rectangular concrete blocks.

He gave the blocks a variety of surface textures, but the fundamental structure was of unpainted concrete blocks reinforced by steel rods. He invented the word "Usonian" from USA, and by "Automatic" he meant that virtually anyone with a middle-class income could put one up - literally automatically.

The controversies that plagued Wright for much of his life never seriously deterred him. Part of the exhibition documents the tumult which accompanied the Marin County project; this found expression in such vociferous headlines as "Wright stalks out of board meeting angered at charges he supported Reds" and "New Red charges hurled at Wright".

Wright enthusiastically advocated building upwards in urban areas; among his last major projects was one intended for Chicago which he referred to conversationally as "the Mile-High". He planned just that: a slim, concrete, metal, one mile high, providing vast areas of floor space but leaving the surrounding surface of the earth uncluttered.

He planned the "Mile-High" to the last detail. Nuclear power would run the lifts, which would serve several storeys simultaneously, and would rise and descend not on cables but on cogs. Sadly the caption to this exhibit concludes "(Unbuilt)".

So does the one describing the "Butterfly Bridge" which Wright designed for the lower part of San Francisco because of the need for perpetual maintenance painting, he planned a reinforced concrete structure rising in the middle to permit ships to pass underneath. At the midsection the bridge was to divide, and there, between the traffic lanes, he foresaw a full-sized park and rest area, for viewing the bay.

Indomitable local champions of the Butterfly claim they may yet see it built, and the Foundation in Arizona also has plans for other unrealized projects. Thirty-one years after Frank Lloyd Wright's death, his creative work is still alive and controversial, while his native land continues trying to catch up with him.

Thorny thinking

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

JUST as last week's *Arena* profile of the dragon agent Peggy Ramsay illustrated the BBC 2 programme at its theatrical best, last night's film about the English Rose showed it at its rambling worst. The problem is of our own making: several years ago television critics told *Arena* how good it was at being quickly off-beat. Programmes dedicated to the Mini Minor and the song "My Way" were good enough in their own right to set some kind of agenda for the future - choose an arbitrary commodity and go down every one of its historical and sociological byways.

Thus for the Rose show we were given a terminally boring lecture about the Wars of that name, brief chats to people who have had roses named after them, and a look at a lady who believes in smothering her lunch with petals. We were lucky, I suppose, not to be introduced to Rose's Line Juice or Rose Macaulay, let alone the massed bands of the Grenadier Guards playing Ivor Novello's "Rose of England".

But random reflections on a single word need a focus if they are

not to degenerate, as this one did, into indulgent meanders on a non-existent theme. Next week I suppose we will have 40 minutes on the life and times of the cactus.

Over on Channel 4, on a night when most documentaries seemed to be competing for BAFTA nominations in advanced monotony, Hilary Minster's *Age of Hearts* was a profile of Zia Mahmood, arguably the world's greatest bridge player. It went some way towards explaining the fascination of a game which seems to attract world champions who always look like ageing movie stars, and sometimes are. For me, observing bridge-players has all the compulsive excitement of watching dust settle, but there are clearly those, not least Mahmood and Minster, for whom it represents something more than that.

Minster and Mahmood were at their best when exploring the possibilities of fixing a game: apparently there is a brand of Russian cigarettes which, when lit, makes a noise unlike any other. One pair of players was accused of passing illicit signals to each other with the sounds made by their cigarette papers.

Nowadays screens are erected between players to prevent any facial cues or other secret signs, and bids are written down to avoid coded vocal inflections. I only wish I could care, but, as newspaper bridge columns testify, there are thousands who do, and for them this may well have been the programme of the week.

Musical journeys

RADIO

Martin Cropper

TOBACCO has been the ruin of many of the great names of this century. One recalls the dreadful and of H.H. Munro, whose famous last words, raising his head above trench-level, were: "Put that bloody cigarette out!" In the case of Anton Webern, the fatal smoke was a cigar half-consumed outside his son-in-law's house; mistaking the composer for a black marketer, a US Army cook named Bell shot him dead.

John Thornley's artful collage *The Death of Anton Webern* (Radio 3, Sunday) wrapped up a weekend in which the composer's works were broadcast, from soup to nuts; a tribute all the more remarkable for not being tied to an anniversary in a publicist's diary. The rhapsodic effusion of Her Doktor Webern - its alleged radicalism compromised by his conscious dedication to the classical tradition - was counterpointed by any amount of "natural" sound, including bomber engines, and the achievements of Frank Sinatra. Testifying to the military inquiry into the composer's death, a witness declared, "I

didn't see what transpired".

What transpired in the course of *The Great Bug Hunt* (Radio 4, Wednesday) was a Scoop-like catalogue of preparations for an entomological expedition to Indonesia, including a search for precisely the right brand of self-draining jungle boot. Martin Wainwright's four-part narrative promises well.

Other journeys were celebrated in *Recollections of an Exile* (Radio 3, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), in which William Beckford, builder of Fonthill Abbey, recalled trailing his quivering sensibility around Portuguese monasteries in 1793. No curmudgeonly Snootlet or frivolous Sterne, Beckford dilated on the sumptuous appointments of the sites visited, which were either "imposing" or "picturesque". A travel writer whose strongest complaint is that a place is "unpoetical" has no notion of an audience.

The Irish poet and playwright Aidan Higgins returned to radio with *Boonstown* (Radio 3, Thursday), a typically involved pot-pourri evoking a year spent teaching a "creative writing" course at the University of Texas. "Cicadas shrilling in the pecan tree, like steel war music by Hindemith" - this was, however, Professor Higgins at work and not one of his students, whose chief concern seemed to be the fortunes of the Longhorns football team. A news broadcast revealed that one of their linebackers had been arrested for biting a policeman.

A Wagnerian evening at Covent Garden, and Scott Joplin's only opera, resisting resuscitation at the Bromley Festival

One master singer to be prized

Paul Griffiths

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Covent Garden

THERE are not too many reasons for rushing to the Royal Opera's slightly new production of *Die Meistersinger*. But really one only needs the one: Bernd Weik's quietly perfect Hans Sachs. The tone of resignation properly pervades everything he does, but it is lightened by a feeling for irony: Sachs as a man whose observation of the world has brought him as much wit as wisdom.

His singing gives the impression of confidences being bestowed with the authority of transparent frankness, and yet not a word is lost. It is the same with his acting: he has only to open his hand and the point is made; he simply belongs in the role.

Perhaps it is unfair that he can be so true and at the same time so beautiful. His voice is centred in a rich, appealing warmth, but it is his range of nuance that gives him the means to make everything tell without exaggeration: this is the mastersinger as leader artist. He is also, for once, a man young and vigorous enough to be a plausible match for Eva.

Indeed, it seems absurd that she should willingly forgo him for the Walther of Reiner Goldberg, who has not been well served by the wig and costume departments, and who, on Thursday night, was in distressing vocal condition. The sound was strong but constricted and often out of tune.

Eva herself was another disappointment. This was Felicity Lott's first Wagner role, and she is unlikely to be encouraged to go

further. The excessive care in enunciation can be overcome, but that will leave the problem of so much artistry being dimmed by insufficient volume. For her, though, the quintet was the high point, reminding us of what makes her so special.

Hermann Prey as Beckmesser played down, as he promised in interview with Barry Millington on this page, the pinched spite of the character, which made it possible for him to sing most of the part with full, lustrous tone. I cannot imagine Beckmesser's attempt at the prize song has ever been made so beautiful. But of course it remains ridiculous, and Prey is too good a clown not to take advantage of the comedy.

Among the others, Robert Gambill looked a likely David, and picked up vocally after a

somewhat strained first act; Anne Howells, in gorgeous voice, made one wish Magdalene's part were ten times longer; and Gwynne Howell contributed a feelingful Pogner. There is further help to the generous gravity of the work from Christoph von Dohnányi's spacious and deep-textured conducting, at least after an overture that had demonstrated his clarity, but had also plodded.

The production has been staged by John Cox and is generally unexceptionable, though the playing of the riot in slow motion under ice-blue lighting is a mistake. Michael Hopkins's new sets for the finale - segments of grandstand with curved toy-glider wings of balsa wood and tissue paper rearing up over them - are bizarre, though the sensation of light is welcome.

DONALD COOPER



Bernd Weik: a "quietly perfect Hans Sachs" in Die Meistersinger

A delicate blending of feeling and phrase

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Abingdon Square
Cottesloe

A MIDDLE-AGED widower, decent and tender-hearted, marries a teenage girl; she is as young as his son, with whom she soon discovers she is in love. Because they cannot express their love, she imagines a lover who looks like him and eventually takes a real lover. The happiness of the marriage's early years turns to hatred. This bald outline of all but the closing scenes of Maria Irene Fornes' exquisitely shaped play gives away nothing that seriously matters, since our feeling for her characters, and our understanding of them, grows from the accumulation of delicately placed feelings, phrases, tones of voice and even reggae songs. These signals chime with one another like memories: precise, intensely charged and astonishingly unexpected.

The scenes, to which the pregnant remarks tend to form the climax, vary greatly in length. In the one where a workman asks the wife, Marion, for a glass of water, and drinks from the vase of flowers she is holding, there are but two lines spoken. Characters communicate their feelings to us even when their mouths are closed.

The play was first seen last summer at the pocket-sized Soho Poly as a co-production with Shared Experience. Nancy Meo-

ler has now re-directed it for the Cottesloe, where the stage alone is six times the ground area of the entire Soho Poly Theatre.

On Lucy Weller's cream-white set, where the young people wear white, and Juster, the husband, and Marion's old aunt dress in grey or black, the only colour comes from the elegant, mahogany turn-of-the-century chairs and table. In the wide spaces between these islands of furniture, Meckler's exceptionally fine cast plays out the drama of a sexuality that becomes self-aware only to find itself trapped.

When Annabelle Apsion and Pearce Quigley bound on to the stage at the beginning, naively pulling each other to the ground, it comes as a shock to learn that she is about to become his stepmother. Apsion captures beautifully an adolescent's artless attempts to order her jumbled feelings, and so vividly does her voice colour the description of her imagined lover that it comes as another shock to find the dapper young Frank (Christopher Eccleston) transformed from an invention to a flesh-and-blood man.

Philip Voss's subtly marked performance as Juster, where thin-lipped smiles of guarded delight become the thinner lines of bitterness, is another excellent performance by one of our most versatile actors. When he hoarsely repeats the words of "Dearie", sung to him as a birthday treat by his still marginally happy family, you hardly know whether laughter, tears or sheer amazement is the fitting response.

The play's short run ends on April 28; I strongly recommend it.



Married bliss? Philip Voss and Annabelle Apsion in Abingdon Square

Michael Wright

Julius Caesar
Theatre Royal,
Brighton

TIM Pigott-Smith's Compass Theatre has rallied a huge company for this touring production, which is rich in fluency and detail. A little less twanging from those retractable daggers, a little more blood and sweat on those perfectly-ironed togas, and it might really stab home.

A number of large white marbled blocks, like chunks of pre-graffiti Berlin Wall or massive Augustan urns, make a clean-lined, versatile set. Here Pigott-Smith clothes his balding Brutus in a soft dark gown, hinting unconvincingly at the resourcefulness that lies beneath his noted brows. It is a thoughtful but

clumsy interpretation, like Peter Blythe's petulant Cassius with his trumpet-oratory.

In marked contrast to this rather uninspiring double-act, John Duttine's dead-pan Mark Antony easily wins our sympathies, all but castrating the play. Splendid in scarlet, with a face that is primarily fringe, chin, and eye-lashes, he brings an incisiveness of delivery that rapidly undermines the ineffectual baying of the senators. Terence Longdon's Caesar is a creased face on a willow stem; Lynn Clayton makes a sensational Calpurnia; Pamela Miles a bimbo-like Portia.

Some remarkable coups-de-théâtre make up for the lack of emotional conflict. After Caesar's bloodless stabbing, the set itself begins to crack and bleed, and later, in a grotesque parody of *The Winter's Tale*, his marble statue comes hideously to life.

Stars, stripes and a hint of spring

CONCERT

Stephen Pettitt

Philharmonia/Slatkin
Festival Hall

LEONARD Slatkin's anglophile sympathies have not caused him to lose his affinity with his native American music. He gave a hugely enjoyable demonstration of that in this Philharmonia concert.

The predominantly extrovert nature of the music naturally encouraged these in-form players, but the ingredients added by Slatkin - his absolute physical control combined with a careful ear for formal and textural balance - took their performances to the highest level.

Charles Ives's boldly innovative Variations on "America", heard in William Schumann's conspiratorially naughty orchestration, made for a rousing tongue-in-cheek opening. The orchestra negotiated its weird harmonies, its complex cross-rhythms and its superimpositions of tonality with flair and relish.

In Samuel Barber's Piano Concerto the soloist was Pjano Brown - the work's first performer, back in 1962. Not surprisingly, he had this tough piece well under his fingers, and tackled the gritty opening movement and the exuberant 5/8 ostinato of the finale with an appropriately hard-edged, but eminently clean-fingered, determination. Yet he took every opportunity to relax into the more veiled sonorities of the beautifully orchestrated, central Canzona.

Sensitive orchestration is also a mark of Copland's suite from *Appalachian Spring*. In a lovely reading, Slatkin showed himself to be particularly adept at shaping the sound; the ending, with clarinet, harp, glockenspiel and strings meandering in ensemble and balance, was as finely controlled and as quiet as one is ever likely to hear.

This particular moment of alchemy was a marked contrast to the endearing swagger of Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, throughout which the now redundant harpist sat quietly beaming with pleasure, while the young children in the front row of the choir seats visibly thrilled to the sights and sounds of the busy percussion department, with its four French taxi-horns tooting away.

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WALKING

One step beyond

W. J. Burroughs

Continued on next page

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OPENING NEXT WEEK

THEATRE

SAMUEL BECKETT: A celebration of his life and work, with Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Harold Pinter, Barry McGuire, Stephen Rea and Sally Wainwright. Profits go to a charity for the homeless. Odeon Leicester Square, London SE1 (01-928 2252). Sunday, 7.30pm.

THE FIRE-RAISERS: Circus. Seno's Dany George leads in a new production of Max Frisch's somewhat surreal tale, using circus sides, mime, live music and dance. DCC Theatre Club, Duke of Cambridge, 64 Lawford Road, London, NW5 (01-485 4303). Opens Tues.

THE LAST ENGLISHMAN: Geraint Wyn Evans and Kate O'Mara as Hereward the Wake and his wife Torlga, battling Ken Bones as William the Conqueror, in a new play by David Pinner, who directs. Orange Tree, Kew Road, Richmond Surrey (01-940 3633). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: Bill Alexander's production, with Roger Allam and Susan Fleetwood, opens the main-house season. RST, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 255623). Previews from Thurs. Opens April 10.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Fine Young Carnivals' lead singer Roland Giff, and Daphne Naylor, directed by Bill Hopwood for Hull Truck Company, who will be visiting New York and touring here. Spring Street Theatre, Hull (0482 23533). Opens Tues.



Samuel Beckett: celebration

CONCERTS

MAGICAL SONG: Szymanowski's Symphony No. 3, the magically beautiful "Song of the Night," is heard from John Hutchinson (tenor), London Voices and the London Philharmonic under Simon Ratcliffe. For and after: Berlioz's *Sara la Baigneuse* and Schubert's Symphony No. 9. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Today, 7.30pm.

DAVIES NO 2: As part of another series, devoted to the works of Peter Maxwell Davies, this composer's Symphony No. 2 is heard from the RPO under Jan Latham Koenig. But first comes Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* and Florence Quivar (mezzo soprano) is heard in Marler's *Kinderlieder*. Festival Hall, Monday, 7.30pm.

TRAUER AND TROST: In the British Library/Stefan Zweig Series, Margaret Price (soprano) sings an interesting programme with Cornelius's *Trauer und Trost*, Wagner's *Wendensack Lied*, 8 of Wolf's *Mörke Lieder*, 4 of Liszt's *Goethe Lieder*. Graham Johnson (piano) accompanies. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tuesday, 7.30pm.

SHOSTAKOVICH ARRANGED: After playing excerpts from Beethoven's ballet music for *Prometheus*, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Heinz Holliger gives the UK premiere of Rudolf Barshai's arrangement of Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 3. Then Gidon Kremer solos in Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London (01-638 6891). Thursday, 7.45pm.

CINEMA

ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY (15): Paul Mazursky's delightful, bittersweet version of the Isaac Bashevis Singer novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life. Ron Silver, Anjelica Huston. Odeon Haymarket (01-839 7897). From Fri.

GEORGETTE MEUNIER (18): Chilling, highly-stylized German film about a small-town murderess: written and directed by Tania Tzavella. Kirstie Alley and the voice of Bruce Willis. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). From Fri.

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (U): Dispirited, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog (voiced by Burt Reynolds) returning from the dead. Directed by Don Bluth. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111). From Fri.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (12): Infantile comedy about an unmarried mum and her talking baby, a surprise hit in America. John Travolta, Kirstie Alley and the voice of Bruce Willis. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). From Fri.

COURAGE MOUNTAIN (U): Hald's adventures during the First World War. Lame up-dating of Johanna Spyri's heroine, though the Swiss Alps look a picture. Juliette Caton, Charlie Sheen. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). From Fri.

SOCIETY (18): Obscure, zombie-filled horror yarn from Brian Yuzna, producer of *From Beyond*. Prince Charles (01-437 8181). From Fri.

MOTION AND EMOTION: The films of Wim Wenders: British documentary about the German film maker, with a group of colleagues sharing their thoughts, and scattered insights and clichés from Wenders himself. ICA Cinematic (01-930 4493) from Mon.

THE RESCUERS (U): Disney cartoon from 1977, uneasily poised between old studio traditions and contemporary urban satire. Worth seeing, though, for Orville the elopement, the one-man giraffe. Warner West End (01-438 0781). Cannon Oxford Street (01-630 0310). From Fri.



After honing her American accent in *Cookies* and *In Country*, Emily Lloyd returns to a British story in *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl* — a chilling drama about a bizarre crime case that held the nation agog in the last months of the Second World War. Lloyd is a Hammett-style stripper longing for glamour and excitement. Enter Chicago Joe — an American deserter who fans her imagination by posing as a gangster supervising operations in London. Together they embark on a wild crime spree. "Can I sit in the front on the way back?" Lloyd blithely asks after their pointless killing of a taxi driver. At least Chicago Joe (Kiefer

Sutherland) sweats with guilt, though he gets exonerated just the same. This curious affair was first examined by screenwriter David Yallop in the 1970s as a project for the BBC. Its bleakness: made financiers nervous; then the Working Title company (responsible for *My Beautiful Laundrette* and Lloyd's debut film *Wish You Were Here*, loosely based on the early life of Cynthia Payne) took it on board. The director is Bernard Rose, a rising talent previously responsible for *Paperhouse*; he wields the fantasy style with a heavy hand at times, though you cannot shrug off the film lightly. Odeon West End (01-930 5252), from Friday, certificate 18. Geoff Brown

OPERA

OPERA NORTH: First night tonight (7.15pm) of Verdi's *Jerusalem*, in its first British production. Paul Daniel conducts, casted by Janice Cairns and Arthur Davies. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 445326).

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Revival of John Cox's production of *Die Meistersinger* on Tues and Fri (5.30pm) is conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi with cast including Felicity Lott and Hermann Prey. Covent Garden, (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: David Pountney's new production of Verdi's *Macbeth* opens on Thurs (7.30pm), conducted by Mark Elder. Cast includes Kristine Giesinski and Jonathan Summers. Tonight, Tues and Fri (7.30pm), Prokofiev's *The Gambler*. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Arrives in Bristol with their new, orchestrally resplendent *Der Rosenkavalier*, conducted by Andrew Greenwood on Wed and Sat April 7 at 8.30pm. Der Freischütz tonight, *Così* on Thurs and *Barber* on Fri, all at 7.15pm. Hippodrome, Bristol (0272 299444).

OPERA 80: Heavy-handed production on Tuesday of *The Merry Widow*, Heather Lorimer and the young cast work hard to salvage some semblance of style. On Wednesday, Opera 80 offers a compact, visually striking production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, which nevertheless overstates its young cast. Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 525555), 7.30pm, 26.50-29.

GALLERIES



The champ: John Hoyland

GEORG BASELITZ: 18 new paintings by a highly-paid and influential German artist and teacher whose *leitmotif* is upside-down figures. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London W1 (01-499 4100). From Wed.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN EXPERIENCE: The 50th anniversary of the air battle is commemorated in tableaux, paintings, photographs and archival material as well as with the aircraft themselves. RAF Museum, Hendon, London (01-200 1783). From Wed.

TREASURES OF THE PRINTS AND DRAWINGS COLLECTION: Rembrandt, Michelangelo and Giovanni Bellini are included in an all-star line-up. British Museum, London WC1 (01-638 1555). From today.

MARIO SIRONI: Posters for Fiat from 1930-60 by a graphic artist who has contributed variously to Futurist and Fascist styles. Design Museum, London SE1 (01-403 6933). From Tues.

John Hoyland is reigning British champion of abstract painting and printmaking. His works command respect from reviewers, even those tending to be suspicious of abstraction, and among non-representational artists he is a god, his every brushstroke examined minutely and discussed in the exclusive jargon of formalist art criticism. Overhearing such language the uninitiated would never suspect how easy it is to get in tune with work like Hoyland's. Certainly some additional effort is essential. But the key to appreciation is contained in the artist's own exhortation to feel through your eyes. Once, when talking about his pictures, Hoyland referred to his hope of achieving "energy, radiance, colour and volume without being in any way illustrational". And he has also stated that the feelings his paintings attempt to speak of are "enjoyment, love of life, fear of death, pleasure, passion, sensuality, voluptuousness, sex, drink". During his long career, he is now 56, he has experimented with most printmaking processes from lithograph and monotype to etching and screenprint. This lesser-known aspect of his work is, on Wednesday, the subject of a retrospective at Austin Desmond Fine Art, 15A Bloomsbury Square, London, (01-242 4443). Mon-Fri 10.30am-6.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until April 26. David Lee

JAZZ

RALPH SUTTON: Essential stride piano from the co-founder of the World's Greatest Jazz Band, embarking on a lengthy UK tour. Drunken Hotel, Belfast (0532 322525) Wed; Farmer's Club, Cambridge (0223 62086) Fri.

EUROPEAN JAZZ QUINTET: Opening dates by the astute multinational unit, now including the Italian trumpeter Enrico Rava. Eborac & Devon Arts Centre (0392 219741) Fri; Phoenix Arts Centre, Leicester (0533 555627) Sat; Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham (021 4465636) Sun, April 8.

CEDAR WALTON: Ex-Bleary pianist with a conventional hard bop quartet. Support from the British pianist-band leader Stan Tracey. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon to Sat 14.

ROBERTO PIA: The Colombian percussionist leads one of London's most vivacious live bands. 100 Club, London W1 (01-636 0833) Fri.

Gramophone magazine once praised a performance by saxophonist John Harle as "the most beautiful alto-playing since Johnny Hodges". A touch hyperbolic, some might think, but it reflects the esteem in which Harle is held both here and in the United States. One of those instrumentalists who is happy to cross back and forth between the worlds of jazz, classical and rock music, he embarks on a seven-date tour in Cheltenham on Thursday. Apart from jazz material such as Gil Evans's "Las Vegas Tango", Harle will be exhibiting some of his juggling skills in a program which will run from 11.30 to 1.30. The "Sexual Heav" was the name of the band he led in the 1960s. In 1970 he will be accompanied by a full pianist John Leno area, for pair will be in act which includes champions of synthesizers and they may yet synthesize a foundation in mon Limbrick. Classical highlights for other Benjamin Britten. Thirty-one Ravel's "Habanera" Wright's reconstructed prework is still there is even a pal, while his Purple's "Peter des trying to Opening dates: Che Hall (0242 5236 David's Hall, 371236) Fri; plin's 583928) Sat. Also Cheltenham on Thursday, Hall, London SE1 Mon 9.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PEOPLE'S PALACE: 150 photographs, from 1880 to the present day, featuring London's Fulham Palace. The palace, once the home of the Bishop of London, and in parts, dating back several hundred years, has been largely unused since the turn of the century. Pictures on display amount to a mini-history of photographic techniques, as well as a document of the recent refurbishment of the buildings which have given the palace a new lease of life.

Fulham Palace, Bish act; Anne Bishops Avenue, Lophic, made (01-748 4751). Until 1 part were Gwynne. Lynne Davies: Influential Berenice Abbott and her help to Mapplethorpe in her work. American photographer Mapplethorpe's work on display at the National Portrait Gallery, London, W1 (01-499 5, April 3. been re- and is slow ing is a new CIRCLE EXHIBITION: Ann of opportunity to see gild mader of work encompassing a wide range of play things — from stage coaches and hansom cabs — are and porcelain dolls. a of Boston Guildhall Museum, S St, Boston, Linco. Until April 30. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 1.30-5pm. Adult 40p, under 16, free.

ANTIQUE DISCOVERY DAYS: Popular outings for anyone wishing to get their antiques valued by Sotheby's experts, who also accept items for auction. Mon, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, Kent, 10.30am-3.30pm, in aid of the Kent Association of Boys' Clubs. Tues, Civic Hall, Guildford, 10am-1.30pm. Fri at St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, London, 10.30am-3.30pm, in aid of Star and Garter Homes.

SPRING FLOWER SHOW: For horticulturalists and gardeners, especially those with a particular interest in carnations, daffodils and ornamental plants. Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat St, London SW1 (01-834 4333). Tuesday 11am-7pm, Wednesday 10am-5pm, Tuesday 22.50, Wednesday 21.50. Members free.

PORTOBELLO CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL: Four days of exhibitions and events with an extensive fringe programme centred around Portobello Road, west London. Galleries, shops and related events. Thurs 11am-6pm; Fri, Sat, 11am-8pm; Sun 11am-6pm.

BRIDGE

If the Wandering Jew had been a bridge player, he would have found it a lot easier to settle down. The game is an ideal way to integrate with a host community, as career diplomats, corporate tetrarchs and other modern rolling stones will testify.

Two weeks ago, a group of Parliamentarians paid a visit to Stockholm to strengthen their links with the Riksdag, which has a flourishing bridge club. It was unsurprising that quite a number of ex-patriates were keen to get in on the act. Captained by the Duke of Atholl, who was partnered by Lord Smith, the Parliamentarians beat both the Riksdag and the expatriates. A star performance by the Precision-system-playing Labour MPs, John Marek and Lewis Moonie, served notice that they are going to be hard to beat in this company.

The Indian Ambassador, Pushkar Johari, has found that bridge smooths the way in many parts of the world, including Hanoi and Addis Ababa as well as London and Washington. His reasoning as South in this deal was incisive: Dealer West. East-West vulnerable.

W N E S
No 10 No 20
No 30 No 40
No 50 No 60
No 70 No 80
No 90 No 100

won, and the ace and king of trumps were taken, West discarding on the second round. What now?

To draw trumps would invite an avalanche of clubs, should the diamond finesse fail. To take the finesse now is better, but still risky, as East may be able to put his partner in for a ruff, as happened at the other table.

The solution is simply to play off the ace of diamonds. If it isn't ruffed, you are home, for you can force out the king and can cope with any return, including three rounds of clubs.

Playing the ace was most enjoyable, as it brought forth East's singleton king — and cries of "Hold your cards up, Atholl!"

David Herman, the new president of Sab, is an American and a veteran of previous foreign assignments. He handled this deal in the manner of a first-class player.

Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

This is a basic situation. Declarer is one short of his contract and dare not develop any suit, as the defenders would cash a fatal number of tricks. There remains one resource: to exit in the opponents' suit and hope for a squeeze.

You should do this even if you know little or nothing about squeezes, as a squeeze may develop all by itself.

After the disappointment in spades, Herman duly exited with a heart. The defenders took their winners and West was left on play in this position:

West exited correctly with the queen of diamonds, but South won in hand and cashed the queen of spades, forcing West to throw a diamond. Dummy gave up a club and East followed suit to the spade.

Now South played off the A-K of clubs, squeezing East and establishing a trick in which-ever suit he discarded.

Had the defenders not cashed their hearts, the contract would have failed. Again, you don't have to be erudite to avoid this.

You simply take the position that a declarer who offers you the chance to cash winners is unlikely to be doing so wholly out of the kindness of his heart.

Albert Dormer

CHESS

The annual Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge is one of the grand fixtures of the chess season. Indeed, it is the oldest running regular chess competition in the world, having commenced in 1873. Last year, after a near record series of victories, Oxford went down to defeat, but in this year's clash, held at the traditional venue, the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, the Dark Blues resumed their winning ways.

Oxford: D. Norwood (Kable) beat J. Sharp (Downing College). D. Agnos (Hartford) beat S. D. Singh (Queen's). D. Lawson (Trinity) beat J. Wheeler (St John's) drew with S. Rias (Wolfson) beat S. Fell (Trinity). M. Hazell (St Anne's) drew with D. Lee (Trinity). M. Graves (Kable) to A. Baker (Emmanuel).

Anna Jillings (St Hilda's) lost to N. Hogan (King's). Cambridge: City solicitors Watson, Farley & Williams, which already sponsors the annual grandmaster tournament which gives opportunities to young British players, covered the expenses of the Varsity match and offered a splendid post-match dinner for the two sides and their supporters.

White: J. Wilson; Black: D. Lawson. Varsity Match.

He should not invite doubled pawns. 8 Bd2 is stronger.

Sealing the centre in this

fashion is inimical to the operation of White's bishops. Instead he must proceed sharply with 14 Ne5 to 15 Ne3 and 16 Nd5, singlemindedly pursuing the initiative. After the text, Black takes control of the game.

14... Ne5 15 Ne3 16 Nd5 17 Ne3 18 Rd1 19 Rd2 20 Qd2 21 Qd3 22 Qd4 23 Qd5 24 Qd6 25 Qd7 26 Qd8 27 Qd9 28 Qd10 29 Qd11 30 Qd12

White's bishops. This rupture of the centre ensures the decisive penetration of White's camp.

White's bishops. This rupture of the centre ensures the decisive penetration of White's camp.

White's bishops. This rupture of the centre ensures the decisive penetration of White's camp.

zle. White to play checkmates the Black king in two moves against any defence. To solve the problem send White's first move only to: Lloyds Bank Chess, 76 Lambcroft Avenue, Mottingham, London SE9 4PB. Mark your solution "The Times". Successful solvers will qualify for the second postal stage of the Lloyds Bank Chess problem solving championship, so send your name and address with the solution.

Today's problem is from the game Troyanovsk (White) — Jovanovic (Black), Oberhausen 1966. Can you see how Black wins immediately?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Chess Problem Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 6BN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a three-volume chess set. The winners' names will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Rd1 Rxd2 2 Rxd3 Qxd3 3 Qxd3 4 Qxd4 5 Qxd5 6 Qxd6 7 Qxd7 8 Qxd8 9 Qxd9 10 Qxd10 11 Qxd11 12 Qxd12 13 Qxd13 14 Qxd14 15 Qxd15 16 Qxd16 17 Qxd17 18 Qxd18 19 Qxd19 20 Qxd20 21 Qxd21 22 Qxd22 23 Qxd23 24 Qxd24 25 Qxd25 26 Qxd26 27 Qxd27 28 Qxd28 29 Qxd29 30 Qxd30 31 Qxd31 32 Qxd32 33 Qxd33 34 Qxd34 35 Qxd35 36 Qxd36 37 Qxd37 38 Qxd38 39 Qxd39 40 Qxd40 41 Qxd41 42 Qxd42 43 Qxd43 44 Qxd44 45 Qxd45 46 Qxd46 47 Qxd47 48 Qxd48 49 Qxd49 50 Qxd50 51 Qxd51 52 Qxd52 53 Qxd53 54 Qxd54 55 Qxd55 56 Qxd56 57 Qxd57 58 Qxd58 59 Qxd59 60 Qxd60 61 Qxd61 62 Qxd62 63 Qxd63 64 Qxd64 65 Qxd65 66 Qxd66 67 Qxd67 68 Qxd68 69 Qxd69 70 Qxd70 71 Qxd71 72 Qxd72 73 Qxd73 74 Qxd74 75 Qxd75 76 Qxd76 77 Qxd77 78 Qxd78 79 Qxd79 80 Qxd80 81 Qxd81 82 Qxd82 83 Qxd83 84 Qxd84 85 Qxd85 86 Qxd86 87 Qxd87 88 Qxd88 89 Qxd89 90 Qxd90 91 Qxd91 92 Qxd92 93 Qxd93 94 Qxd94 95 Qxd95 96 Qxd96 97 Qxd97 98 Qxd98 99 Qxd99 100 Qxd100

Raymond Keene

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2141

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions on Thursday, April 3. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 6BN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 7.

ACROSS: 1 Warning (3,3). 4 Dirty fog (4). 7 Polio (3). 9 Balaclava (7). 10 Pious (5). 11 Not involved (13). 12 New Zealand rugby team (3,6). 13 Canals (13). 14 Madrid art museum (5). 20 Monument inscription (7). 21 Nether (3). 22 Belt (4). 23 Rub out (5).

DOWN: 1 With it (6). 2 Newspaper world (5). 3 Face cloth (7). 11 Chevalier (7). 12 Avaricious (6). 13 Team encourage (11). 14 Knap-bell (4). 15 Balaclava (7). 16 Run of the mill (7). 17 Cooking style (7). 18 Clinging gastropod (6). 19 White Chinese (6). 21 Nether (3). 22 Belt (4). 23 Rub out (5).

SOLUTION TO NO 2140: ACROSS: 1 Typhoon 9 Arctic 10 Kir 11 Chevalier 12 Sinner 14 Scum 17 Eri 19 Socks 22 Knowledge 23 Cur 25 Mains 26 Noddy.

DOWN: 1 Stakes 2 Sparx 3 Sorcerer 4 Understanding 5 Tara 6 Strid 7 Scarce 13 Mar 15 Unusually 16 Loo 17 Eskimo 18 Ironie 20 Dacot 21 Martyr 23 Lash.

The winners of prize concise No 2135 are: Berni Grabowski, Chelvey, Lancashire; Mr W. J. Towler, Seaford, East Sussex.

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2135 (Last Saturday's Prize Concise): ACROSS: 1 Cyclic 4 Drug 7 Gout 9 Reivier 10 Ounce 11 Fields 12 President 16 On the increase 19 Brake 20 Outsize 21 Son 22 Yell 23 Amends.

DOWN: 1 Cartel 2 Covey 3 Invoice 5 Ringlet 6 Grease 7 Grand Canyon 8 Top 12 Puffin 13 Erratum 14 Toyboy 15 Recess 17 Exec 18 Align.

SHOPPING

Thai treasure trove

Nicole Swengley
discovers a
hidden London
warehouse full of
Eastern delight

The name Remote is appropriate for the hard-to-find treasure house in west London which sells of decorative accessories, furniture and ceramics. But it's not in terms of value for money. The warehouse is the work of Steve Charles, the Paris-based Paris Ceramics, the London's classicist which he started on a journey with £200 in 1975. The warehouse is in a converted Victorian warehouse in the City of Westminster. Charles and his partner art director, to import the indigenous carved objects. But ideas quickly and they persuaded the north-landers to manufacture their own designs, "environmental" rattan furniture. The warehouse are low, most at about a third less than shop prices. Remote will also be accessible, in the Paris shop at 543 Park Road, in addition the warehouse location which the antique tiles. Paris Ceramics will be a shop at 228 Park Road when it takes place. Charles is trying to sell an alternative lifestyle but one balanced between east and west, it's not overly "exotic". Mr Charles says, "The furnishings aren't just temporary and antique. After all, chinoiserie has been with us for hundreds of years. What is important is way in which people put them together." Among Remote's wares are raw silk from Cambodia, colonial chairs, metal furniture incorporating mosaics,



Merchants of the exotic: Steve Charles (left) and Charlie Smith amid the decorative furniture, fabrics and carvings from the East

beaten metal and rattan chair costs £130. Copies of ornate, carved French mirrors cost £500. The ceramics range from African to Aztec in style and from £18 to £250. Handloomed 100 per cent cotton costs £8.50 a metre. Already commercial clients are latching on to Remote's potential for one-stop shop-

ping. Bramley Court, a 32-bedroom hotel near Guildford, Surrey, has been kitted out with rattan bedheads, side-tables, curtains, accessories, and large decorative pieces for the foyer. But it's not only interior designers who plunder Remote. "Everyone who comes here buys something, even the

delivery van chaps," Mr Smith says, adding proudly: "We sold more than 60 carved candlesticks in our first fortnight here."

Remote Trading, Unit 4, Mercury Works, Leyfield Road, W12 9JF (01-746 0049). Paris Ceramics, 543 Battersea Park Road, SW11 3BL (01-228 5785); warehouse (01-746 2240).

Iron pots of good taste

Even in today's hi-tech kitchens, traditional cast-iron cookware is still a favourite

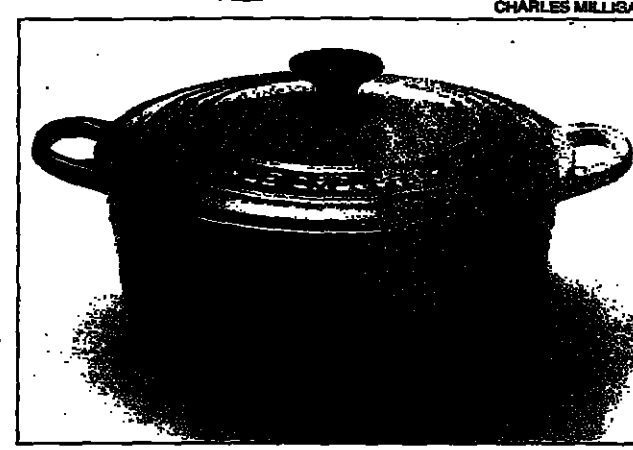
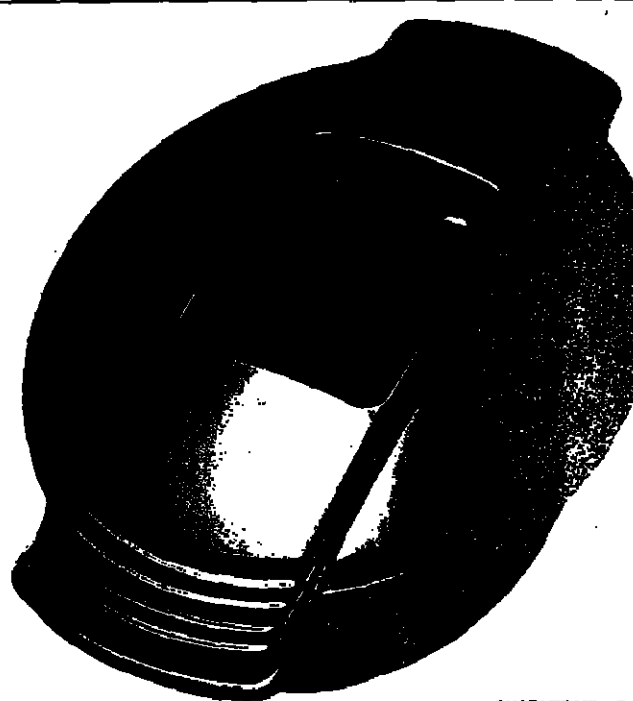
If the foodie forecasts are correct we will all be tucking into peasant-style dishes in the Nineties. Stews, cassoulets, unusual soups and organic vegetable-based recipes with rice, quinoa or buckwheat... all seem set to tempt us away from the filo pastry parcels and nouvelle cuisine we enjoyed in the Eighties (Nicole Swengley writes).

Cooking these healthy, hearty meals calls for cast-iron cookware of the kind that the French company Le Creuset has been making for more than 60 years. Even in these days of hi-tech kitchens cast iron performs as brilliantly as in the Middle Ages.

Cast iron is particularly effective because its weight, thickness and conductivity ensures the retention and correct dispersion of heat, promoting gentle, even cooking at low temperatures. Not only is it economical to use, it brings out the flavours from the ingredients.

Le Creuset's Tradition range is best known for its distinctive volcanic orange-coloured casserole dishes and wooden-handled saucepans, which can be used on any heat source and taken directly to the table, where they will keep hot for some time. This range is now also available in cerise, white, slate blue, dark blue, green and hazelnut.

Last year, the company launched a new range for the first time in 30 years. Le Creuset Vitrobase comprises new shapes which incorporate wide pouring lips on saucepans and new contoured, anti-slip, dishwasher-proof handles capable of withstanding oven



Le Creuset's new blue casserole (top) and traditional version

temperatures of up to 230°C/445°F/gas mark 8. The new range also has smooth, heat-resistant enamel bases for use on ceramic hobs and induction cookers. It is available in volcanic orange, cerise, blue and white.

Most Le Creuset cookware has a durable, enamel interior surface, which is hard-wearing and easy to clean, although some pieces have non-stick interiors. Unlike some non-stick cookware, Le Creuset's has a base coat of porous enamel coated with a non-stick material, which is absorbed into the enamel to produce a very hard, non-stick surface which survives scratching by metal utensils.

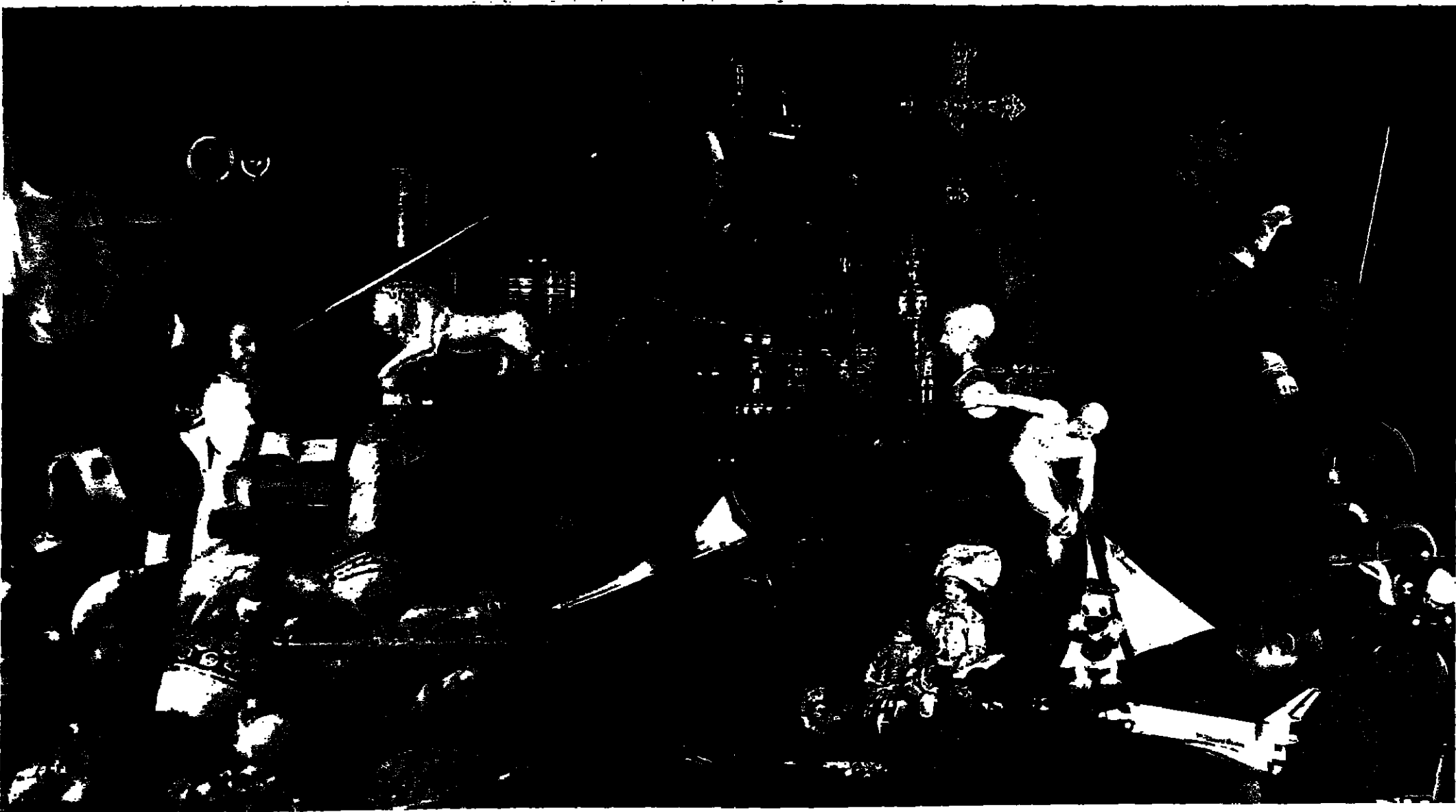
The company, founded in 1925, has a factory at Fresnoy-le-Grand in northern France close to St Quentin, a crossroads for supplies of pig iron, coke, sand and enamel. Its sister foundry, at Cousances, has been in production since 1553, when Jean Barisien paid seven hogs-heads of wheat to

the lord of the manor in return for a coat-of-arms and authorization to cast iron at place called "God's Fourtain". Today this foundry manufactures the Cousances range, which is similar to Le Creuset but comprises different shapes and styles.

Le Creuset's production process involves casting in sand moulds, sand-blasting, enamel-spraying and finally firing at 800°C. The enamel then becomes embodied into the cast iron, making it resistant to damage.

Hand-crafting is still used in mould-making, casting and enamelling. And, as each sand mould is destroyed after use, no two pieces of Le Creuset are ever exactly identical. All are guaranteed for 10 years.

Le Creuset and Cousances cookware is available at department stores and specialist kitchen shops throughout Britain. An after-sales and advice service is available from the Kitchenware Merchants, Stephenson Close, East Portway, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3RU.



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THE TIMES



The Master golfer's guide to the Augusta course

JOHN LAWSON/GEORGEY SIMS

Nick Faldo tells
Mitchell Platts
about the perils
of playing at
Augusta

What struck Nick Faldo the first time he saw Augusta National was the sheer beauty of the place. That was 11 years ago. He returns there next week to defend his Masters championship in the first of the four major golf tournaments of 1990.

"I know that first year I did not learn all I needed to know to play the course," Faldo said. "But I was immediately taken by its beauty. I can remember going out the first time, standing on the second tee and feeling as if I was in a giant garden."

"You think you can walk out there and play the place normally. Instead, you get into all kinds of knots, and those knots are difficult to unravel. You stand on a tee and think: 'I know exactly where I've got to hit this'. But choose the wrong line, as invariably you do when first you play Augusta, and you can easily lose 30 yards. And that 30 yards becomes so important as you realize that huge though the greens are, there are flat spots on which it is imperative to land the ball to ease the strain on your putting."

"You've got to know your route. You've got to know what to do and to be positive about it. The margin of error is minute, especially on the inward half."

Here is Faldo's analysis of the last nine holes, where championships are won and lost.

HOLE 10

One of the prettiest but potentially the most punishing. That was proved last year with the average, per hole, per player, being 4.22. The key is to ensure you hook the drive from the tee in front of Bobby Jones's cottage so that it rolls far enough to finish in a swale. You will see some very long drives here. The approach with a four to a six-iron is to a green which slopes from right to left, looks flat but has all manner of breaks in it. You must use the driver to reach that swale. If you fail then even from the fairway you will almost certainly have a downhill, sidehill lie. You cannot hit the approach up too quickly because first you must start the ball out low so as to negotiate the overhanging pines.

HOLE 11

This is the famous "ball-out" hole. We all seem to stand on the tee, rip the ball out there and then stick the second to the right of the green. Last year, I hit the target to win the play-off here but, earlier in the day, my drive hit one of the pines and finished only 150 yards from the tee. But many approaches do finish in that area from where Larry Mize chipped in. It has been that way since 1950 when the creek was dammed to form the pond on the left which is an obvious distraction. It is an extremely well designed hole. The slopes are all correct. If they put the pin to the left and you hit to the right then you have a downhill, curling putt. If you miss to the right, a poorly hit recovery will kick away. I try to drive down the middle for a better view then work the approach off the shoulder of the green into the flag. Last year by the play-off the wind and rain was coming from the right. I aimed 10 feet to the right and the wind blew it back on line.

HOLE 12

This is the second of the trio of holes known as Amen Corner and you need to say your prayers on the green, which, as we all know, is guarded by Rae's Creek and two bunkers at the back. It is a very clever

green because the landing area, wherever they put the pin, is so small. The green is small by Augusta standards and yet there are really three little greens within a green. Imagine a circle of around 15 to 18 feet in circumference and that is your target. If you pull or push the ball ever so slightly then you will leave yourself a long, teasing putt or even miss the green altogether.

HOLE 13

Just where you aim with the driver depends entirely on how you are feeling. There are three pine trees to use as a guide - the right one is the safe line, the middle one a touch more aggressive and the one to the left represents the tiger line. If you can hook the drive off that line then you can get the ball to run all the way round the wooded, creek-guarded corner as the hole dog-legs to the left. Then you could be going in with as little as a five-iron although the strategy of taking the tiger line is fraught with danger. If you play conservatively then you may have to do so again with the second shot by laying up short of the creek which crosses in front of the green. It is not really the percentage shot to stand there with a fairway wood on a steep lie and fire the ball first over the creek then get it to stop on the green. I did go in there with a three-wood in the last round and I hit my shot of the day. It carried the creek, landed softly and the ball rolled to within 12 feet of the cup.

HOLE 14

You have got to draw from right to left again, following the line of the pine trees, only this time you can do so with a three-wood. It is necessary to

use a driver at most of the par fours and par fives at Augusta but not here. If you shape the shot correctly then you should be going in with anything between a six and a nine-iron. The spectacular green has a mega-slope from left to right so you've got to know where the flat spots are and try to land the ball on the one which is on the correct side of the hole from which to putt. If you miss the flat spot then the ball can roll 60, 70 feet away. I hit a very good shot with a six-iron on the last day last year to the back left, finishing five feet away for a birdie. The green is one of the quickest; long putts are curling, evil ones.

HOLE 15

It's a gamble. You can stand on the tee and try to belt the living daylights out of it. The line is a fraction left of centre. Then comes the shot; possibly a four-wood or a long iron. If you miss it then you'll come up short in the water. If you hit it too hard then you can go in the water, too, because, although rarely seen on TV, there is water beyond the green. Go over the green, anyway, and you have an impossible chip back. You can lay up in two but it leaves you with one of those pitches which can spin back into the water. Overall I think 13 is a better par five.

HOLE 16

In theory it all comes down to the green, and where they put the pin, because in my opinion you've got to mis-hit the tee shot to finish in the water. As a rule they put the pin to the left on the last day although I think that a slightly easier target than when it is to the right. There is a big ridge running from front right to back right so with the hole cut just above that you can have only an eight or 10-foot zone in which to land the ball. If you push it then the ball will kick right, leaving you perhaps only 20 feet away but snookered, and if you pull it then it will roll left so finishing 40 feet or so down the hill. When the pin is to the left then you can aim marginally to the right and then let the natural contours of the green take the ball down towards the cup. On the green, watch for the breaks of the putt; I holed from 18

feet for a birdie in the last round and the ball broke six feet before it disappeared.

HOLE 17

You smash the drive over two trees, one known as Ike's tree which has truly grown and spread over the years, that encroach the fairway and then go into the green with anything between a six and a nine-iron. The approach can be made trickier by the wind which blows round from the tee at the 18th and can knock down what looks a good approach so leaving the ball in the front bunker. The green is another of the big, sloping variety so you've got to land the ball in the right place or run the risk of it rolling into three-putt territory. I was in all the wrong places last year and if I had not holed my 30-footer for a birdie then the ball was going so fast that I would probably have finished fourth. I knew when it went in that I was going to win.

HOLE 18

This is a very good finishing hole. You've been drawing shots all the way round and now, suddenly, as you look up the hill you've got to fade it off the tee. And the driving channel, with branches overhanging from either side, is very narrow. The shot in normal weather conditions is with a three-wood so that you don't reach the bunkers on the left which were developed so as to stop big-hitters going way left for safety. The hole plays quite long up the hill and you can need a three-iron if the pin is on the back. But if it's on the front, and you've hit a good tee shot, then it is likely to be a seven-iron. You can't see the bottom of the pin but that is OK here. As I said, it is a question of doing your homework.

What
Cambridge
does.



This year, the blues
really pushed the boat
Instead of their pre
brand, both crews hav
ned weatherproofs in
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SPORT & TRAVEL & LEISURE

SATURDAY MARCH 31 1990

SECTION 4

Time to pull in the same direction

THE most invaluable incident to befall the Boat Race in recent years was in 1984, when Cambridge rammed a stationary barge and sank. The following day, more than 12 million television viewers watched the re-run, and the sponsors, metaphorically speaking, triumphantly threw their chairman into the water.

This national event, our annual trip up the river, is only grudgingly acknowledged by some of the non-Oxford rowing fraternity as the best publicity their sport receives in the year. It thrives on controversy. Indeed, you could say it depends on controversy for survival, and never more so now that television coverage is open to exclusivity. Oxford domination, bordering on the boring, is worrying even Oxford, never mind Duncan Clegg, the organizer.

Controversy is Putney's champagne. The first skirt on the Tideway, diminutive, taciturn Sue Brown's, attracted curious television crews from New York and Tokyo. Rip Van Winkle Rankov's



David Miller

six Oxford races outraged many purists, but not the PR man. The American mutiny of 1987 matched the footlights pique of Heseltine's resignation and delighted Dan Topolski's bank manager. And last year, right on eve-of-race deadline, the Oxford coach called Cambridge's coxswain "useless".

What we have today, in what is expected to be an extension of Oxford's run of 14 victories in 16 races, is an umpire who is fable, if provoked, to disqualify a crew for the first time this century. That would not only be good for the ratings (electricity) but, for the esoteric interests of the race, it would not be umpiring if I was not prepared to act. I think on Thursday we went as far as we could towards one interpretation instead of three.

Although Beefeater, with a new

three-year sponsorship contract worth £250,000, would doubtless welcome the furore of a disqualification, and are looking for ways to expand the scope for "executive spectating" at an event that it is not possible to witness live and static for more than 20 quickly passing seconds, the BBC remains the Boat Race's and the sponsor's greatest friend.

After over 40 years' priceless promotion of the event, Clegg and the BBC have signed a new five-year deal, which is the key factor in the commercial equation of the race. But Jonathan Martin, BBC's Head of Sport, says: "Who can tell what the position will be in five years. We've been competitive [commercially], and think we pay a fair price [£50,000 annually] in view of the huge cost of technical coverage from Putney to Mortlake. But we've never taken for granted a continuing future."

Clegg might be able to sell to a higher bidder another time, but it is doubtful if the race would retain that tradition and texture of a national event with any other channel. The BBC has never attempted to "hype" the recurring controversies, leaving them to speak for themselves as news events. There is a respect for the intrinsic qualities of the race itself which is not always to be found within television.

What the race does need is a marked improvement in the courtesy of some of the oarsmen towards those publicizing their exclusive day out. Oxford, maybe through continual success, have a slightly supercilious attitude, ill-suited to their search for £500,000 towards a new boat house.

They again have a potentially brilliant crew, only half of them, for a change, over-age. Seaside, Old Holzer and Pinsent, all under 21, represent the best of British international rowing, one of the country's foremost sports in performance. Let us hope if today's result is predictably boring, the victors' attitude is magnanimous.

work to watch training on the last couple of days."

Lees is in the second year of a three-year contract with Cambridge. "I'll see how things go before deciding what to do after that," he said. "At least there are signs that things are improving slowly, and we're beginning to approach the leading rowers at school with a view to them coming to Cambridge if they are academically good enough. Our president has done a lot of good work there. I hope this will be the last year of talent we've missed." Lees believes Cambridge's main chance of a shock triumph today lies with Oxford's preparation.

His opposite number, Steve Royle, countered: "I'm glad to hear they're talking about us having all the top talent. It suits me they're making up excuses already."

Cambridge apathy attacked by coach

AN ANGRY eve of Boat Race salvo was fired at the Cambridge rowing establishment yesterday by their own coach, Mark Lees. He spoke of "arrogance and apathy" within the university and admitted his crew had little chance today.

"It's like Barnet taking on Nottingham Forest at soccer—that's the sort of chance we've got," Lees said. He was "fed up" that Oxford—winners in 13 of the last 14 contests—continually attracted the top rowers from public schools.

"They are able to pick three internationals in their crew. Of course they are the favourites," he said. "There is a lot of arrogance and apathy in the Cambridge camp."

"Some of the old Blues think you can just pick any old eight to compete. They show no interest. A lot of them have just crawled out of the wood-

Cool Gower waits his turn while Greenidge strikes

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

ENGLAND have put out makeshift teams on tour before. Occasionally, they have even recruited from the travelling press but seldom, if ever, can such feverish interest have been created by a man making up the numbers, as occurred here yesterday.

The circumstances were unusual, to say the least. Last summer's England captain had been dismissed from office and stripped of his place in the team. Bitterness was not far from the surface. To see him back so soon, answering an emergency as the new captain was immobilized, is the stuff of soap operas.

David Gower appeared to take it all in his languid stride. This is his way. You may take it, however, that there was plenty going on beneath the greying curls. The chance of retrieving his Test career quite so rapidly was, in his own understated vernacular, very good news.

Gower abandoned his seat beside me in the press box to take the offered place in England's team against Barbados, as soon as he was confident that an hour's batting in the nets on Thursday afternoon had not adversely affected his old shoulder injury.

Nobody put pressure on Gower in this peculiar situation. It was, for him, an

optional net, though for a considerable crowd of media and tourists it was compulsive viewing. Later in the evening, he telephoned Allan Lamb, Graham Gooch's deputy as captain, and said he would "give it a go".

And so, yesterday morning, the England team bus was required to make a detour to the hotel where the press party is billeted, collecting Gower and transporting him back into the environment he had not expected to re-enter until stating his claim rather more conspicuously.

By coincidence, it is only because Gower's new county, Hampshire, selected Barbados as their pre-season practice venue that he has been able to prolong his trip. Depending on what he achieves over the weekend, he may well not be linking up with his new teammates until he has added to his Test caps.

Those who came to Kensington Oval with Gower versus Marshall in mind were to be disappointed. Lamb won the toss and asked a Barbados side, including five Test players, to bat first.

Only Moseley, of the luminaries in this island squad, stood down from the game, presumably in the belief that he had done enough to retain his Test place. But if Barbados were close to full strength, England's team was a curious

affair, missing both specialist opening batsmen and all three front line seam bowlers.

Their dwindling resources will be reinforced tomorrow by the arrival of David Smith and, as things stand, it remains more likely that Smith, rather than Gower, will go straight into the Test team. This, however, will alter appreciably if Gower can overcome his lack of practice and make runs today.

For England's second-string bowling attack, there were no cheap profits on offer yesterday. None of the Barbados top three—Greenidge, Haynes and Best—seemed inclined to treat the occasion as anything less than valuable Test match preparation.

In a freshly painted ground, where the first consignments of English supporters were evident, Haynes made only nine before Defreitas found a good ball pitching on off stump and going away. Bailey, the stand-in wicketkeeper, held a competent catch.

Lewis, however, had a frustrating morning, overstepping 12 times in his first spell and putting down a sharp return catch to relieve Greenidge, who quickly adopted the limp every bowler has come to dread and proceeded to his half-century in 56 minutes.

More cricket: page 50



Rangers' stalwart Richard Gough has declared himself fit for the game with Celtic

Souness calls for an end to complacency

By Roddy Forsyth

THE dictates of live television coverage, already familiar in England, mean that the leading premier division contest originally scheduled for this afternoon, between Rangers and Celtic at Ibrox, has been deferred until tomorrow to suit the satellite subscribers.

The match would have been a much less captivating prospect had Rangers been able to maintain the mid-season form which carried them far ahead of the chasing pack. However, the defending champions have not won any of their last six matches, a sequence which extends back to February 3, when they beat Dundee United 3-1.

The Rangers' manager, Graeme Souness, has diagnosed the malaise as a premature onset of self-satisfaction. "Nobody here ever told them the championship was as good as won," he said yesterday. "But the media did and so did their friends and their relatives and maybe they even told each other. It's one thing to talk about what you're going to do and it's another thing to do it."

"Now they have to do their talking out on the pitch and I hope that the game against Celtic will do the trick. They have not only been told that they have won nothing yet, and that they could end up with nothing if they don't pay attention to the job in hand."

Celtic, of course, contributed to Rangers' slump by inflicting a 1-0 defeat at Parkhead in the third round of

the Scottish Cup last month.

The influential Rangers' trio of Ferguson, Gough and Steven reported minor injuries after international appearances for Scotland and England, but have recovered and will play. Celtic may well field Andy Walker from the start, for he scored three goals for the reserves on Thursday.

Mike Galloway, who played in the same match in order to restore his sharpness after a three-week suspension, is also likely to take part.

The Edinburgh collision between Hibernian and Heart of Midlothian, at Easter Road, goes on today as planned. Hibernian are the form side of the division, having taken 11 points from their past six fixtures. Gorman and Collins, who were excluded from Scotland's midweek matches because of injury, have both recovered and will play for Hibernian, while for Hearts, McCreery has shaken off a virus infection.

There is a match of great importance at Dens Park where Dundee, with six wins from seven fixtures, entertain Aberdeen, a team desperate to apply pressure to Rangers. Connor, absent through injury last week, will play for Aberdeen while Dundee are unchanged.

Dunfermline are at home to Dundee United, who will be without Malpas and O'Neill for the rest of the season, the former because of a damaged knee and the Irishman as the result of glandular fever.

Brealey to remain in control

By Ian Ross

REG Brealey, the chairman of Sheffield United, has abandoned his controversial plan to sell a controlling interest in the club to Sam Hashimi, an Iraqi-born businessman.

Brealey's decision, announced yesterday, was so unexpected that it can only be construed as one borne out of a desire to re-establish a measure of stability at a time when the club is well placed to win promotion.

"I think that you can assume I shall be here for some time yet. I am determined to end this affair in the best interests of the club," Brealey said.

Brealey's announcement, March 5, that he had sold to his 63 per cent holding to Hashimi for a price in excess of £6 million, widely condemned.

Woodhouse, a member of the board and the club's largest shareholder, announced that he had sold a local backing to lodge immediate counter bid.

In Hashim, the son of Hashim, a former Manchester United player, indicated that he was to make an offer for shares in an attempt to take over the club.

Hashimi takeover, announced that Brealey, upon returning from a business trip, was informed that his shareholders would be considering their resignation to Hashimi deal to

indicated that he was to make an offer for shares in an attempt to take over the club. Hashimi takeover, announced that Brealey, upon returning from a business trip, was informed that his shareholders would be considering their resignation to Hashimi deal to

Aintree hospitality problems

By John Goodbody

A LEADING corporate hospitality company is having difficulties in providing a satisfactory service for about 300 people at the Grand National at Aintree next Saturday.

Macworth, which failed to produce tickets for almost 400 clients for the England v Wales Rugby Union international at Twickenham in February 1988, was yesterday being assisted by a leisure company based in the same Chelsea building.

An official of that company, Falcon Leisure, confirmed: "We are helping them out because they have problems."

However, he declined to identify how serious the problems were or answer any more questions. When asked if The

Times could speak to someone from Macworth, he replied: "There is no one here."

Macworth is planning to entertain 300 people in a tented village at Aintree for the most famous steeplechase on the racing calendar.

John Parrett, the managing director of Aintree, said: "We have heard rumours about the difficulties of one firm. However, no hospitality company that has booked facilities on the course is in difficulties."

As with many major sporting events like Wimbledon and the Open golf championship, there are the official and unofficial corporate hospitality companies operating at the Grand National. There are will 5,000 people

accommodated at Aintree in corporate hospitality packages, with several thousand more in facilities in the neighbourhood.

Aintree itself runs 80 per cent of the official packages with the remaining 20 per cent given to leading companies like Keith Prowse. All these clients automatically receive badges to the course.

Parrett stressed that if anyone had any doubts about whether a company had facilities on the course, they had only to phone Aintree to inquire.

In February 1988, Macworth had advertised a £249 (plus VAT) hospitality package, including lunch and a champagne reception in a marquee on the Harlequins

ground and seats for the England v Wales match. In its brochure, Macworth had used quotes from Derek Thompson, the Channel 4 racing presenter, and from Bill McLaren, the BBC commentator, praising its facilities.

However, McLaren said that he had never given his permission to be used, although Macworth insisted that he had.

Just before the match, clients discovered that no tickets were available and nearly 400 people had to watch the game on television.

At the time, Charles Tatnall, a director of Macworth, said that the usual supplier of tickets,

Hendry's slump continues

By Steve Acteson

STEPHEN Hendry has won five titles this season and is joint favourite at 9-4 with Steve Davis, the defending champion, to win the Embassy world championship next month.

However, underlined Hendry's sudden slump last night with an emphatic 5-2 victory to reach today's Benson and Hedges Irish Masters semi-finals at Goffs, Co. Kildare.

Hendry and White are the most exciting players the game has to offer, so fireworks were expected. In the event it all fizzled out like a damp squib with White saying: "Stephen played badly, I played badly, it was garbage."

Both players had the world championship too much in mind, and wandering minds led to squandering chances.

White won the third frame by virtue of a flaked snooker on the final blue, and the fourth by potting the last red out of another snooker.

He missed the final yellow, however, when he had a chance to put Hendry out of his misery in the sixth frame, but the reprieve was short-lived, with White producing the only half-century break of the match, a 60, for victory.

White said: "I had no confidence in my cue-tip. It has gone like a rock and I'm going to change it but that was still the worst snooker I've ever played and won. It's the first time I've come here with the world championship so much in mind and I think it's the same for everyone. I'd love to win this but it wouldn't give me the boost I need

because I'm already really keyed up."

Hendry said: "I've got to be a bit concerned about the way I'm playing with the world championship coming up but I'll be practising intensely now and I'm sure I can get my game back by the time we go to Sheffield."

"I struggled in France. I struggled in the World Cup and now I've struggled here. I just hope that's over and done with. I've been playing well all season and to suddenly start playing badly is a worry."

The quarter-final between Alex Higgins and Dennis Taylor has fuelled an enormous demand for tickets after the widely publicized row involving the pair in the World Cup. Higgins (left) and Taylor (right) in action.

Reporter's award for Goodbody

There was further recognition yesterday for *The Times* sports coverage with an award for John Goodbody, our sports news correspondent, in the British Sports Journalism Awards. The judges of the awards—organized by the Sports Council and the Sports Writers' Association and sponsored by Minet—commended Goodbody for his "investigative work on the drugs problem". The other award winners were:

Sports journalist of the year: Patrick Collins (*Irish Times*); Sports news writer: Ken Jones (*The Independent*); Sports reporter: Ian Safford (*Mail on Sunday*); Sports journalist: Simon Turnbull (*Newcastle Journalist*); Sports journalist: Philip Andrews (*Irish Times*); Sports news writer: David Meen (*Manchester Evening News*); Weekly newspaper sports journalist: John Williams (*Daily Mirror*); Sports commentator: Duncan Mackay (*Scottish Daily Express*); Sports news writer: Susan Carter (*Western Morning News*); Sports journalist: John White (*Westminster Gazette*); Sports news writer: Peter Morris (*Nottingham Evening News*); Sports news writer: David Gifford (*Nottingham Evening News*); Sports news writer: David Gifford (*Nottingham Evening News*).

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The Times guide to 136th University Boat Race

Odds weigh heavily against Cambridge

By Mike Rosewell

OXFORD go to the start this afternoon at 4pm as firm favourites to win their fourth consecutive Boat Race in 15 years.

The signs were clear for Cambridge when Oxford beat them by 16 seconds at the Reading Head on March 3. Despite Cambridge reseatting the positions of their crew and Oxford changing their stroke man since that date, there is little evidence to suggest that Oxford will not extend this margin over the longer four and a quarter-mile course today and retain the Beefeater Trophy.

Oxford have a two stone weight advantage, a one and a half year age advantage, and, most crucially, a considerable advantage in experience. Jonathan Searle, Rupert Obholzer and Matthew Pinsent are all bronze medal winners at world championship level.

Richard Hull, a survivor from the 1987 "mutiny crew", Jonathan Searle, the President, and Mike Gaffney, the stroke, will all go to the start with two boat race wins behind them. Christopher Heathcote, the heaviest competitor ever, Donald Miller, an American trialist, and Tom Stocock, a winner for Isis, complete the line-up of oarsmen.

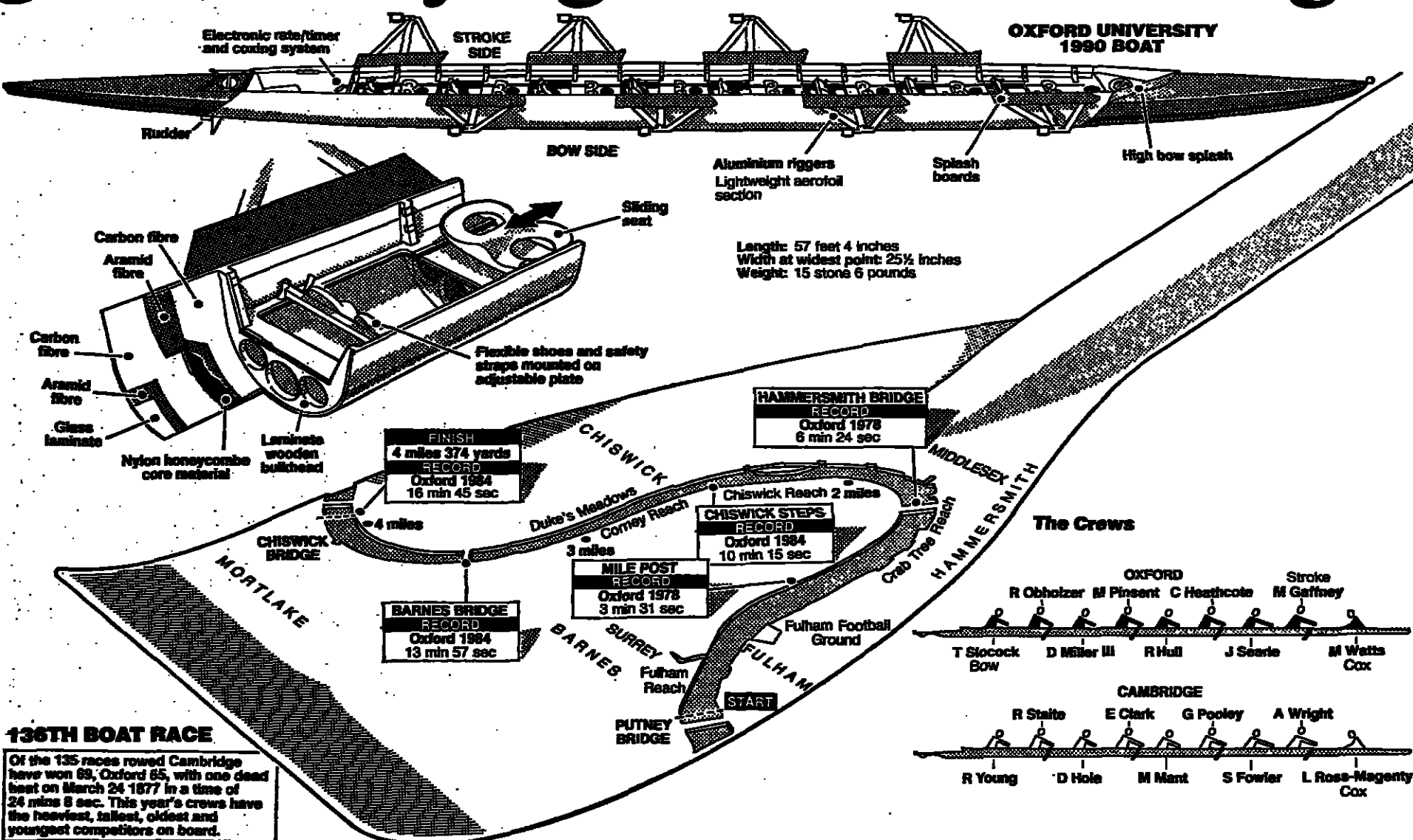
Cambridge have just two ex-Blues, the President, Paddy Mant, and Guy Pooley, both of the losing variety. Richard Young, Edwin Clark and Richard Stait are all ex-Goldies, the latter two being very much lightweights. The remaining three, Steven

Fowler, Duncan Hole and the stroke, Adam Wright, appeared from the freshmen eight, the stroke man being Cambridge's find of the year. Female coxswains made the headlines last year and Lisa Rose-Magenty, of Cambridge, has had her fair share of media attention, all of which overlooked the fact that she has already won two boat races, the women's lightweight event in 1987 and the Goldie Isis race in 1988. Martin Watts, though, spent hours on the Tideway while at Westminster School and must have a greater understanding of its vagaries.

The old rowing maxim that "a good big one will always beat a good little one" could be applied here, although Cambridge do not appear as a particularly "good little one" and Oxford, when racing rather than paddling are one of their best ever combinations.

Both crews looked relaxed at Putney yesterday morning, although Oxford won a little psychological battle, by turning ahead of Cambridge and causing them to row in launch wash from Hammersmith to Putney. Presumably Cambridge's sports psychologist, Brian Miller, subsequently put their minds at rest.

The reserve crew race between Isis and Goldie (3.30pm) could cause a family feud, with cousins, Richard Thorp and Drostian Vye stroking the respective combinations. The Thorp family seem the most likely to be celebrating the outcome.



136TH BOAT RACE

Of the 135 races rowed Cambridge have won 68, Oxford 65, with one dead heat on March 24 1877 in a time of 24 mins 8 sec. This year's crews have the heaviest, tallest, oldest and youngest competitors on board.

Oxford's trip with the light fantastic

By Mike Rosewell

CHRISTOPHER Heathcote, the 17st 5lb 6oz man in the Oxford crew, is some two stones heavier than the boat which will carry him over the 4 1/4 miles from Putney to Mortlake today.

The boat, built by Aytings at West Molesey, is 60ft long and will have to withstand pressures of 350-400lb per square inch on each rigger as the crew gets away from the start at a speed greater than any of the following launches. The pressure drops off somewhat after that initial burst.

The skin of the boat is a

complicated structure. It is made in a female mould, rather like a baking tray. The mould is treated with a release agent, waxed, and coated with resin to ensure that the hull emerges clean and waterproof. A top layer of kevlar, an expensive type of fibreglass, is then applied and this gives the boat impact resistance, should it hit an obstruction in the water, although moored barges can prove rather too solid, as Cambridge know to their cost.

The whole structure is then strengthened further with carbon fibre along the vital surfaces such as the keel, the top of the boat, and the

sections of the skin where the ribs, which hold seats and riggers, will be fixed.

Then comes the "secret ingredient", the honeycomb core. Its function is to keep the inner and outer skins apart, it is 90 per cent air, and increases the strength by some 4,000 times. The second layer of skin is then added, the two together being no more than .0015 of an inch thick, and the basic hull has been produced.

Ribs are then added - these are made of wood reinforced with 18 layers of carbon fibre - before, finally, the decking is laid in such a

way as to prevent the boat twisting.

Since the crew need something to sit on and something to pull against, the seats, slides, footrests and riggers are then inserted. Where strength is not vital, such fittings are made of moulded plastic. For "pressure" fittings, such as riggers, a light, but strong, form of aluminium is used.

All of these fittings are adjustable. The position of a man in the boat can be moved forwards and backwards. The leverage exerted on the blade can be altered by moving the rigger in or out or by changing the position of the "button", the plastic

fulcrum on the blade.

The ability to make last minute changes is vital to coaches since these approximate to changing gear in a car when you go uphill, and a headwind for a crew on the day is "going uphill". Changing the gearing by one centimetre can make the difference between winning and losing in a tight race.

The cost of this technical missile will not leave you much change out of £10,000, although you need not order the specially-designed riggers which Oxford have chosen in case of rough water. The blades are extra, at over £200 apiece.

Oxford

	st	lb
T G Stocock	14	5
(Shrewsbury and St John's)		
R J Obholzer	13	12
(Purton and St Catherine's)		
D J Miller III	14	13
(Middlebury Hill School, Syracuse University, US, and Cambridge)		
M C Pinsent	15	7
(Eton and St Catherine's)		
R A Hull	13	13
(Weymouth, Robinson College, Cambridge and Oriel)		
C J Heathcote	17	5
(Aldwinkle and Jesus)		
J W C Searle	13	10
(Shrewsbury and Christ Church)		
M P Wright	15	4
(Aven Old Farms, Connecticut, US Naval Academy and Hertford)		
R W Watts	7	9
(Westminster and Oriel)		

Average weight: 14st 2lb
*A Blue

Cambridge

	st	lb
R C Young	12	13
(Barnard and Downing)		
R J Stait	11	5
(Prince Henry's and St Catherine's)		
D E Hole	13	5
(Foster's Grammar and Selwyn)		
E C Clark	11	10
(Shrewsbury and Trinity)		
M Mant	14	3
(Cheltenham and Selwyn)		
G R Pooley	12	11
(Corhampton, Imperial College, London and St John's)		
S L Fowler	12	12
(Eton and Robinson)		
A J Wright	13	2
(King Edward VI, Norwich and Corpus Christi)		
L Rose-Magenty	7	10
(Goldsmith and Layman and New Hall)		

Average weight: 12st 10lb
*A Blue

A Dark Blue rebel with a cause that ripples the waves

By Andy Martin

The scribbled name on the door reads "Jonny Prez". The room in Christ Church College belongs to Jonathan Searle, President of the Oxford University Boat Club, the favourites for the Boat Race.

He walks in plastered with posters of his heroes: Clint Eastwood with a pair of smoking guns, Bob Dylan with a guitar, a snarling and scrofulous Sid Vicious. Over his bed hangs a black banner bearing the sign of the skull and crossbones and, "DEATH ZONE - NO PRISONERS".

Jonny - "no 'h' please" - Searle is wearing a pair of scuffed wellieboots and a T-shirt festooned with grinning sharks. His blond hair falls in curls over his eyes. His chances of a part in *Brideshead Revisited II* are practically zero, but he is a lead cert for a remake of *The Wild Ones*.

Until recently, Searle, aged 20, 6ft 4in and 13st, was never without his leather jacket and gold ear-ring. Now he has gone. "I don't need those gimmicks any more - I get enough attention without

them. I've become serious and sensible in the last couple of years." But you still expect him to reply to the question, "What are you rebelling against?" with Brando's words: "What have you got?"

But Searle gets his kicks, not as leader of a gang of greasers, but as leader of the Dark Blues. He took over last October from Alison Norrish, who would have been the first woman president to appear in the Boat Race had she not been sent down for failing her first-year exams.

Searle is modest about his attainments in his own subject, biology - "It's just farming, really" - but his rowing credentials are considerable: a junior international at school and a gold medal at the world championships as part of the senior British squad, and his sights are on the 1992 Olympics.

Searle has rowed in two winning Boat Race crews. He is not expecting the third to be any different. "Because Oxford have been so successful for so long, the best rowers naturally want to come here."

As convinced of his side's



Jonny Searle: "what's dumb about it is that you can get off to a bad start and lose to a crew that's not really very good"

effortless superiority as if he were the captain of Liverpool going out to play Grimsby Colliery reserves, he finds it irritating that the outcome of the Boat Race is still not a foregone conclusion.

"It's like throwing a ball in a roulette wheel," Tim

Bampfitt, the coach, says. "That's what makes it so scary." Searle is scathing about the side-by-side charge along the Thames. "What's dumb about it is you can get off to a bad start and they'll cut you up and you lose to a crew that's not really very

good and you haven't proved much at all." He adds, more subversively: "Even if you win, you haven't proved that much."

He is guarded in his comments on Dan Topolski's account of American-inspired mutiny aboard the Oxford boat in *True Blue*. "It's a good story but there may be some truth in it."

Any hopes Cambridge might have that the two oarsmen from the United States in Searle's crew - a Rhodes scholar and Pentagon employee - will rock the boat

are squashed: "The conflict between Brits and Yanks doesn't exist - not at all." But he admits that Oxford can be "a disharmonious crew - you can have fights, people will jump out of the boat and walk home, but in a race you'd still die for each other."

He defends his men against the charge that Oxford are the numskulls of the Boat Race, all brawn, no brain, who get into university only on the strength of their rowing and is threatening to start legal proceedings against one of the Cambridge crew who accused him of failing his exams.

Searle thrives on aggression. In Bampfitt's words, "he wants to be loved, but love is not what gets his motor going." Searle acknowledges he needs "something to row against", he says of his Cambridge counterpart: "Paddy Mant is a nice guy - but I know when the race starts I'm going to hate his guts."

Bampfitt says: "He's won a lot of races on his ego." He has won himself some followers, too. He was expecting his girlfriend to come over to cook him dinner. "I don't know if it's because I'm a Blue

or just because they think I'm nice, but I don't have any trouble with women."

He has not had quite so much success with prospective employers. "I've just blown my interviews with Mars, Marks and Spencer, and Shell." The Dark Blue president has a greenish tint and would vaguely like to do "something in conservation", but rowing remains his obsession. As Bampfitt says, "He can't do anything but pull."

Searle's views on the contest may annoy the traditionalists. He sees it as more of a publicity stunt than a serious sporting event. "It gives the general public a false idea of what rowing is all about. People come up to members of the British squad and ask them, 'What university did you row for?', as if you had to be at Oxford or Cambridge to row."

The Boat Race is relatively low on his scale of priorities. "It's not a big thing for me - it's much more important to win the Olympics." But he hates losing, "especially when it's something I should win." He has no intention of being remembered as the president who took Oxford to defeat.

SHOOTING

Potts aims to retain title in record time

THE British air gun championships are on edge again this weekend, only five months after they were last decided (our shooting Correspondent writes).

The committee bidding for Manchester to host the Olympic Games now has a range with 200 firing lanes available at the Macclesfield Tennis Centre, "Heads Home", and the championships have been moved from their previous autumn date to the spring.

Ian Potts, aged 25, of Reddington, the champion who is regarded by many as likely successor to Malcolm Cooper, who has dropped air rifle shooting, will face a challenge from Nigel Wallace, the 1987 champion, and Rob Smith, who represented Britain at the Commonwealth Games, Chris Hector, the other competitor in the games, who won in 1988, will not be competing because he is on his way to a World Cup competition in Los Angeles.

Margaret Thomas, the air pistol women's champion, is too on the Los Angeles trip, but not Patsy who has held the title several times, will be available and Deane Coates, the 1987 women's title champion, is defending her title. Geoffrey Robinson, the holder of the pistol title, is another absentee, but Paul Galloway, who lost to him last year, will have plenty of top-class opposition.

SWIMMING

Moorhouse drops out on doctor's orders

By Craig Lord

ADRIAN Moorhouse, the 100 metres breaststroke world record holder from Leeds, has withdrawn from the Launceston Life Gloucester Open meeting under doctor's orders.

The Olympic breaststroke champion, who equalled his own 100 metres world record of 1min 01.49sec at the Auckland Commonwealth Games in January, returned from a holiday in the US two weeks ago with an influenza-related virus.

In a telephone call to the organizers of the event, the round of the British Milk In Action Grand Prix, a disappointed Moorhouse said his doctor had advised him not to put himself under any pressure until the virus had cleared.

Moorhouse will now need a doctor's certificate if he still wishes to compete in the grand prix final at Leeds in May since he has not swum in three qualifying rounds.

David Rolley, the meeting organizer said: "We are obviously very disappointed that Adrian can't be here. But the meet will go on and we are hopeful of some very good times over the weekend."

Moorhouse's withdrawal takes the sting out of the breaststroke events, leaving the way clear for Ron Dekker of the Netherlands to take three comfortable victories at 50, 100 and 200 metres.

Dekker, the second man behind Moorhouse to break the one minute mark at 100 metres breaststroke in a short bout (24 metres) pool, qualified in pole position for the final of that event in 1min 02.49sec. He also led the pack into the final of the 50 metres freestyle with a 23.41 morning heat, half a second ahead of Mark Foster, of Barnet.

Caroline Foot, of Millfield, will be looking to improve on her performance in the heats of the 200 metres butterfly. Foot, who leads the grand prix butterfly category, qualified last into the final. She will need to beat Madeleine Scarborough, the World Cup butterfly champion from Portsmouth, to secure her leading position.

However, Scarborough is likely to see her main threat in Helen Bewley, of Swansea, who won the heat in 2 min 16.29sec.

The home crowd will have all eyes on the women's 100 metres backstroke final, into which Joanne Deakin, of Gloucester, qualified fastest in 1min 05.30sec, ahead of Sharon Page, of Wigan, in 1min 05.53sec and Emma Tatham, of Bracknell, in 1min 06.86sec.

Deakin was the star of the English Commonwealth Games team in Auckland, where she stole the British backstroke title from Kathy Reed, of Barnet, by breaking the British 200 metres and English 100 metres records.

CYCLING

Racers poised for flying start to season

By Peter Bryan

THE flat Eastway Racing Circuit, although one of the bleaker places to be in East London when the wind is strong, should not prove too daunting a course for the newly-formed Banana-Falcon team.

They returned yesterday from a racing tour which took them to the warmth and the mountains of Spain and Italy, making them favourites at least to be the fittest riders when the professional season starts tomorrow on the Temple Mills course.

Dave Rayner was the squad's best performer in the Tour of Murcia, but it was Shane Sutton, the captain, who came out best in the tour of Calabria, finishing twelfth overall after three hard days' racing which saw the field of 145 reduced to 50. The squad should be able to control the race pattern.

Last year's winner, Steve Joughin, the former national champion, will be one of half a dozen familiar faces missing. He has been unable to obtain sponsorship in the recent cutback which has resulted in the number of home-based pros falling to 39.

The day's programme of six races has attracted a record entry of 360, including a field of 140 in the main amateur event. Louise Jones, the Welsh Commonwealth Games sprint gold medal winner, will be among the 42 starters in the women's event.

FISHING

Moore power for the flying olive

By Conrad Voss Bark

THE first dark olive of spring appeared on the windscreens of my car, at least a mile or more away from the river where they must have hatched. Frank Sawyer once said that olives will fly quite a distance. No doubt they may be blown quite a distance too and I suspect this one settled on the windscreens in mistake for water.

The problem about the dark olive (*Baetis rhodani*) is what to use as a reliable match. Kingsmill Moore, that great Irish fly fisherman, has pointed out that there are at least four patterns that have stood the test of time - the Waterhen Blos from Yorkshire, the Blue Upright from Devon, the Greenwell's Glory from the Borders, and the Blue Dun which goes back to Charles Cotton and possibly beyond.

The North Country flies, like the Waterhen Blos, are not far off Stewart's spider patterns, best fished upstream just under the water surface as they drift down, suggesting drowned duns of spinners. Stices was right to insist that these soft-backed patterns do not suggest nymphs, as some have said.

The other three, the Upright, Greenwell and Blue Dun do fine as dry flies on top of the water or what the Piscatorials call damp flies which float in the surface film. In particular, the Greenwell is ambidextrous. With upright wings it is a floater supreme, with sloping wings it can be almost anything from a nymph to a beetle. On lakes fished wet, it is probably the most useful general pattern of various kinds of bait that we have, on a par with the Mallards and the Wickham.

On my way to the river, pondering my choice of fly, I remembered some other good advice that Kingsmill Moore gave in that splendid book of his, *A Man May Fish*. I looked it up on my way back from the river, fished, and it is worth quoting for there is no better prelude to the season.

Asked what fishing meant to him, he wrote: "It may be summarized as a plea and a protest. A plea that the fish be left to make records, the urge to extract every possible fish in a way that is not illegal, the desire to go one better than the next man; a plea that fishing should be not so much a pursuit as a pastime, calling for concentration sufficient to put all worries out of mind, yet not such concentration as to be in itself exhausting."

It was not his skill but his approach that made Watton the father of anglers."

BOXING

Andries's chance to regain title

By Peter Aykroyd

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Jeff Harding, of Australia, the World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight champion, and Dennis Andries, of Britain, meet in a return match in Melbourne on June 2. Harding took the title from Andries in Atlantic City last June.

Andries, who boxes out of the Kronk gym in Detroit, has been signed as a replacement for Danny Lalonde, of Canada, Bill Morley, the Australian promoter said yesterday. Lalonde announced his retirement earlier this week.

The first bout between Harding and Andries was voted one of the best contests of 1989. Harding, bloodied and behind on points, stopped Andries in the final round.

The Australian has won two defences of his title, beating Tom Collins, of Leeds, last October and Italy's Nestor Giovanni this month.

Andries has won the WBC title twice. He lost it to Thomas Hearns but regained it after Hearns vacated it.

GYMNASICS

British hopes are high in a weaker field

By Peter Aykroyd

HOME hopes of success in today's *Daily Mirror* Championships All tournament at the Birmingham International Arena, have been greatly improved by the absence, for the first time for 17 years, of Russian competitors.

Dmitri Nefedovitch, aged 16, and Yelena Paliukh, a year younger, both tipped for medals at the 1992 Olympics, were stranded in Moscow when their visas were delayed through a misunderstanding. Cristina Bontas, of Romania, who is ranked fourth in the world, has been banned from leaving the country by her government.

Two British gymnasts look to be in the running for medals. They are Sarah Mercer, the new national champion, who is competing for Britain, and Terry Bartlett, who is representing England.

Neil Thomas, the British men's champion, is competing in a World Cup event in Toronto, and his place has been taken by David Cox, the national parallel bars champion.

The leading contenders for the men's gold medal include Lazlo Boda, of Hungary, and Alojz Kolman, of Yugoslavia, both seen in last year's world championships. The strongest women's challengers appear to be Veselina Vassileva, a promising young Bulgarian, and the Hungarian, Zsuzsa Cseizi.

TRAVEL

Anne Whitehouse concludes her selection of the best of this year's celebrations of music, drama, film and dance up and down the country

Festivals of Britain

JULY

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL: More than 200 acts in jazz and blues festival, with Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Big Band, George Melly and George Farnie, with a special tribute to Chet Baker. July 5-15: Festival Office, PO Box 944, Edgbaston, West Midlands (021 454 7020)

BOURNEMOUTH ENTERTAINS: Fiesta of folklore dance and music, with colourful costumes and regional rhythms from Britain and abroad. Morris men, belly-dancers, and 16th-century entertainment. July 28-August 4: Tourist

Office, Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset (0202 291718)
BUXTON FESTIVAL: Voltaire is the theme, with two operas based on his stories: *Tancredi* (Rossini), and *Le Huron* (by Belgian composer Gretry). Concerts, drama, recitals, jazz, talks, comedy and fringe. July 21-August 12: Box office, Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire (0296 72190)

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film, pageantry, carnival, fireworks, lantern procession down River Cam, and cricket match against Italian team. July 14-25: Festival Office, Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge (0223 463363)

CHELTENHAM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC: Tippett is composer in residence in his 85th birthday year, with European premiere of his *New Year Suite*; other British composers include Paul Patterson, Judith Weir, Michael Berkeley and Nicholas Maw. Bohemian music from Dvořák, Janáček, Smetana, Peter Eben, and Martinu (in his centenary year). Dance includes Giselle by Northern Ballet Theatre, and opera includes Philip Glass's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Also chamber music, talks, film, jazz, mime and fireworks.

July 7-22: Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 523690)

CHESTER SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL: Orchestral and chamber music, and late night jazz, with international artists. July 20-29: Festival Office, 8 Abbey Square, Chester (0244 320722)

CHICHESTER FESTIVITIES: "Echoes of Italy" is the theme, with candle-lit performance in the cathedral of Monteverdi *Vespers*; works by Verdi, Albinoni, Scarlatti and Respighi; fireworks concert at Goodwood; gondolas on Chichester canal; plus jazz, exhibitions, opera, films, theatre, dance and street entertainment.

July 1-17: Festival Office, Canon Gate House, South Street, Chichester, West Sussex (0243 785718)

ST ENDELLION SUMMER FESTIVAL: Programme plans include Brahms's *A German Requiem*, Poulenc's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, and works by Martinu. Artists to include Richard Hickox, Stephen Clarke and Simon Fischer. July 31-August 10: Details: Mrs Holden, Rock House, Delebole, Cornwall (0840 213242)

CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL: Events in churches, every hall and St Paul's, including Musica Antiqua Köln, and series of organ recitals including Gillian Weir. John Lil gives lunch-time piano recitals and Joan Baez performs at the Barbican.

Jazz, poetry, prose and street theatre in Broadgate Arena. July 8-25: (01-377 0540)

FISHGUARD FESTIVAL: Twenty-first year of festival, with choral and orchestral concerts and recitals in St David's Cathedral and local churches. Haydn's *Paukenmesse* by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and Fishguard Philharmonic Choir, and London Mozart Players with Jane Glover. Appearances by Nigel Kennedy, London West Wind Factory, George Malcolm and Fine Arts Brass Ensemble. Visual arts with Herta and Paul Amiria.

July 21-26: Festival Office, Fishguard, Dyfed (0348 873612)

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Festival's 25th anniversary includes five world premieres, with *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* story opera by Wilfrid Joseph, and celebratory overture for 25th anniversary gala concert. Medici Quartet are in residence, with Barry Tuckwell; and a festival commissioned work for organ by Naji Hakim will be premiered in Ripon Cathedral. Georgia Fane sings Cole Porter; also cabaret and film.

July 26-August 9: Festival Office, Royal Baths, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (0423 562303)

INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL: Traditional folk and world music, plus folk dance from all over Europe and Scandinavia. Part of Glasgow's Cultural Capital year.

July 2-8: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)



Clowning around: the Barbican Centre's children's festival, Summer in the City

KING'S LYNN FESTIVAL: Birthdays and anniversaries are the theme of a festival which celebrates its own twentieth birthday. A concert marks the birthday of the late Sir John Barbirolli, and exhibitions take themes including the Queen Mother's ninetieth birthday. Other themes are Italy, with music by Monteverdi, Rossini and others; and The Voice, with songs from Mahler and Handel to belated jazz.

Also specially commissioned opera by Nicole De Fanu for children, in production by ENO Baylis Programme. Appearances by Peter Donohoe, Fenella Fielding, Wallace Collection, Steven Isserlis and the Kreutzer Quartet, and Pannus Ensemble. Lectures, films, drama, jazz, flower festival and fireworks.

July 18-28: Festival Office, 27 King's Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk (0533 773578)

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL: William Mathias (composer in residence) with his new work, *Therese*, plus appearances by Tippett, Simon Rattle and CSO, Alfred Brendel, John Williams and Finzi Singers. Also David Genterman prints exhibition, show-jumping, fireworks and fringe.

July 6-15: Festival Office, 7 The Clove, Lichfield, Staffordshire (0543 257298)

OUNDE INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL: Sixth annual celebration of organ music for young organists and celebrities takes French theme to mark centenary of César Franck, with recitals in Cambridge chapels including David Sagar, Johannes Greffert from the Kreuzkirche in Bonn, Jane Watts, and Anne Page. Segovia Guitar Trio plays Spanish music, and Leicester Festival Ensemble plays in Fotheringhay Church.

July 6-15: The Music School, West Street, Oundle, Northamptonshire (0832 272227)

PETERBOROUGH FESTIVAL: John Joubert is featured composer, including premiere for chamber organ (festival commission). Events in cathedral include recital by John Lil, Prometheus Ensemble performs *Facade* with John Amis as speaker, and gala finale with City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox.

July 2-8: Christopher Gower, The Chapter House, Minster Precincts, Peterborough (0733 43342)

PROMS: Ninety-fifth season, with more than 65 concerts in 58 days. International orchestras, choirs, soloists and conductors. Programme published in May.

July 20-September 15: BBC World Shop, Bush House, The Strand, London WC2 (01-257 2575)

SHREWSBURY INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL: Twelfth annual music festival with concerts at Shrewsbury Castle, 11th-century abbey church, and market squares throughout the county. Drummers percussion ensembles,

choirs, folk groups, dancers and orchestras from Austria, Canada, Finland, Israel, Norway, Turkey and the US. Also workshops, civic reception, and festival parade.

July 4-11: Concertworld, 6 Belmont Hill, London SE13 (01-682 2008)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON FESTIVAL: Nordic theme marks the 125th anniversary of the births of Sibelius and Nielsen, with representations from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Grieg, Ibsen, Beethoven and Hans Christian Andersen feature in programme, and Magnus Magnusson presents "Iceland Saga". Also Legoland Band, Viking/Saxon battle, folklore weekend, and carnival, fireworks and cricket match.

July 14-August 5: Festival Office, 2 Chestnut Walk, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (0789 67969)

SOUTH BANK: Celebration of arts of Indonesia in two-month season of concerts, exhibitions, cabaret and opera. Programme published June. Also Capital Jazz Parade.

July-August: Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3002)

WARWICK FESTIVAL: Czech music featuring Martinu in his centenary year, with performances by specially created Martinu Centenary Ensemble (in residence), who play some of the composer's jazz-inspired works. Performances of *Much Ado About Nothing* in the courtyard of Warwick Castle, and entertainments at Kenilworth Castle.

July 4-15: Festival Office, Northgate, Warwick (0826 410747)

YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: "Les Plaisirs de Paris" is theme of celebration of Gothic Paris to the court of Louis XIV. First modern performance of Charpentier's *Vespers for the Feast of St Louis*. Also workshops, recitals in stately homes including Castle Howard and Hazlewood Castle, events in York Minster. Climax is Gothic Congo of costumed musicians, dancers and street entertainers.

July 6-15: Festival Office, De Grey House, Exhibition Square, York (0904 658338)

ARUNDEL FESTIVAL: Open-air Shakespeare in battlements of Arundel Castle, jazz with Benny Green, and contemporary music. Performers include Beethoven's *L'Enfance du Christ*, concerts by London Mozart Players and London Handel Orchestra, music from Vienna, puppet theatre, lectures, films and art gallery trail.

August 22-September 2: Festival Society, The Mary Gate, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 883690)

BARBICAN: Summer festivals include LSO Summer Pops (Aug 3-24), Summer in the City (Aug 4-12) (annual children's festival), and

Bank Holiday festival (Aug 26-27), Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-636 4141)

BOURNEMOUTH ENTERTAINS: Annual carnival and regatta with boat races, displays, races, promenades, competitions, fireworks, illuminations, and free entertainments for children. Also clowning and parachute display teams. August 4-25: Tourist Office, Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset (0202 291718)

BRISTOL JAZZ: More than 100 concerts both indoors and out. August 17-19: Festival Office (0874 5557)

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Changes in Eastern Europe provide theme, with visits from Slovak National Opera, Prague Symphony Orchestra, and featuring work of Czech composer Martinu visit from Bolshoi Opera, Moscow; plus celebration of arts and culture of the Pacific, with performances from the Orient and the South Seas.

August 4-11: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041-227 5429)

GLASGOW EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Highlight is premiere of Monteverdi's opera *Le Vite Humaine*, last performed in 1655. Other features include La Grande Écurie and La Chambre du Roy, Part of Glasgow's Cultural Capital year.

August 4-11: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041-227 5429)

LAKE DISTRICT SUMMER SCHOOL: Chamber music, including Chillingham String Quartet, Franz Schubert String Quartet of Vienna, John Shirley-Guir, Jack Bryner, Sara Watkins and Manchester Camerata. Classes and tuition open to public. Also exhibition of work by Lakeland craftsmen. Venue: Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria.

August 4-18: Lake District Summer School, Museum Building, 97 Grosvenor Street, Manchester (061 274 4149/0629 823733)

SALISBURY FESTIVAL: Last in four-year cycle of The Elements focuses on "Air" with subsidiary "Festival of Broadcasting", including BBC and ITV coverage, live transmissions, other highlights are Carl Davis opera, *Peace*, for teenagers, and Simon Rattle conducts CSO in Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

August 30-September 15: King's House, 65-The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 238653)

SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ARTS: More than 500 events in various venues from 7,000-seat open air arena to pubs, featuring artists from Czechoslovakia, China and Hungary. Music, dance, art, workshops, and participatory events.

August 3-16: Festival Office, The Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon (0395 515134)

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL: Worcester is this year's venue for choral music festival, which celebrates centenary of birth of Ivor Gurney, and Elgar's first meeting with Worcester organist Ivor Atkins in 1890. Works by Atkins, Elgar (including *The Dream of Gerontius*, to mark centenary of death of poem's author, Cardinal John Newman), Elton John (Massa Brevis), and Prokofiev (film score for *Alexander Nevsky*). Premiere of *St Nicholas Mass* (by Cheltenham composer Philip Lane), and George Lloyd's 12th Symphony. Also Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, North Indian classical music, African jazz, Andean music on authentic instruments, and Bach *St John Passion*. Events in Worcester Cathedral and Pershore Abbey.

August 18-25: Festival Office, Briar Cottage, 132 Henwick Road, Worcester (0905 615580)

VALE OF LAMORGAN: Contemporary programme features commission from Welsh composer Brian Noyes.

new works by John Metcal and Quenlin Doolittle, and celebration of repertoire of Mike Westbrook. International programme includes recital by Russian Boris Beresovsky, and tribute to Aramie by Cheltenham Quartet. Also modern jazz in medieval barn, recitals in a Welsh castle, musical pinnies and champagne concerts.

August 4-18: Festival Office, St Donats Arts Centre, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan (044 65 2151/2162)

SEPTEMBER

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FILM AND TV FESTIVAL: Sixth festival includes celebration of Catalan cinema, survey of Canadian cinema and film commission forum examining work in Europe. Also focus on Third World cinema and weekend conference on television production.

September 21-October 6: Festival Office, Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (021 440 2543)

CARDIFF FESTIVAL: First festival, organized jointly by Cardiff Festival of Music, Welsh National Opera, Cardiff Literature Festival and Cardiff International Festival of Theatre. Gala concerts, literary events and readings, and drama from international companies.

September 15-October 6: St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 342611)

COVENT GARDEN FESTIVAL: First international festival, with events at Opera House, theatres, cinemas, museums, galleries and Piazza, which will be transformed into 750-seat weatherproof auditorium. September 12-22: Festival Office (01-497 6903)

GLASGOW WOMEN'S FESTIVAL: Celebration of women's festival, with music and drama workshops, and film season. Performances by Magdalena Project, 734 Theatre Company, Wicked Ladies Company.

September 1-3: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)

KING'S LYNN POETRY FESTIVAL: Contemporary poetry with guests including George Macbeth, Gavin Ewart, and Michael Hoffman. September 28-30: Thoresby College, King's Lynn, Norfolk (0553 691661)

MUSICA NOVA: Celebration of contemporary music as part of Glasgow's Cultural Capital year, with premises of work by James MacMillan, Nigel Osborne, Wolfgang Rihm and John Cage.

September 18-22: Festival Office, City Chambers, Glasgow (041 227 5429)

NORTH WALES MUSIC FESTIVAL: Concerts in St Asaph Cathedral with Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra; plus international song programme. Hugh Davies plays Messiaen's *Le Noël des Étoiles*; premiere of festival commission by John Pickard Piano Trio.

September 22-26: Festival Office, High Street, St Asaph, Cwyd (0745 584508)

SWANSEA FESTIVAL: Forty-third festival opens with English Shakespeare. Company production of *Coriolanus* and *Winter's Tale*, followed by orchestral, choral and chamber music including Orchestra of the Bolshoi Theatre. Hanover Bank in late Haydn Mass series, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in 180th anniversary season, and BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra.

September 24-November 3: (0792 488321)

WINDSOR FESTIVAL: Windsor Castle provides setting, with concerts in Waterloo Chamber. Recitals also at Eton College. September 18-October 6: Festival Office, Dial House, Englefield Green, Surrey (0784 432618)

© The Holmfirth Folk Festival, Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire (0484 683639), May 11-13

© Thaxted Festival, June 22-July 15, ticket office, Thaxted Galleries, 1 Newbiggen Street, Thaxted, Essex (0371 830350)

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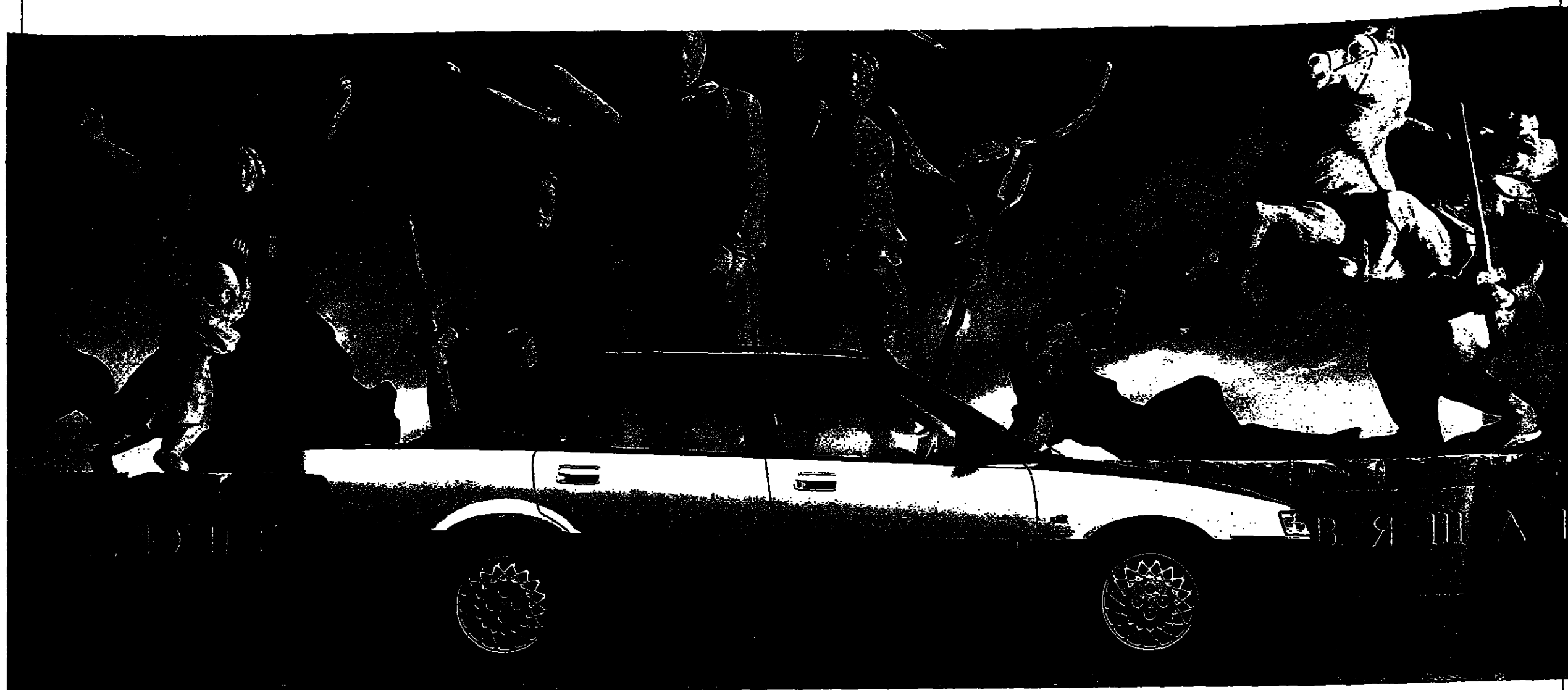
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TRAVEL

The fields of French chivalry



Memory-filled France: the killing fields of Henry V's Agincourt (now Azincourt) and two world wars

A long weekend break in the glorious countryside of northern France turns into a pilgrimage of rediscovery for Tom Pocock, memories refreshed by visits to the ancient battlefields at Agincourt and Crécy

After the accepted tale, the countryside was wonderfully empty and unspoiled. These were the "vast fields" of France, strange yet so familiar: open farmland decorated with clumps of woodland and isolated villages and so often marked by the stone-walled gardens of Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries.

Farther west in Normandy, or around Arras to the east, that would have been the case. But although this part of Artois did not see fierce fighting in either world war, there were war graves beside the road.

They lay beneath a copse and were marked by the pale figure of Christ on the Cross and an inscription below. In the long grass before the stonework, its commemorative lettering worn by time and weather, lay two fresh bunches of carnations.

The ancient inscription, as over other graves in a church not far away, recorded that here lay "the flower of French chivalry". They were the knights who, as Shakespeare wrote, were "the very aquies that did affright the air at Agincourt".

The battlefield of 1415 and the nearby village from which it took its name are now called Azincourt. Our visit was prompted partly by the Kenneth Branagh film and partly by looking at a map in search of destinations for outings while on a weekend jaunt to France.

We had chosen to stay in the old walled town of Montreuil, just inland from Le Touquet, and less than an hour's drive from Boulogne. The thought of Le Touquet, out of season or in season, for that matter — had not appealed, but as we had pored over the map and the myriad of village names, Azincourt had caught our eye. A little preparatory reading



suggested a few other places on the march King Henry V had led from Harfleur to Calais, via Azincourt, and on a clear, bright autumn morning we set out. The 20-minute drive eastward ran along the valley of the Canche to Hesdin and then north-east on to high, rolling farmland and the village of Maisnières. Here had been Henry's headquarters and the bivouac where he had visited the camp fires on the eve of the battle to bring "a little touch of Harry in the night".

There had been only about 6,000 English soldiers — a sixth of them armoured knights, the rest archers — and they were starved, wet, cold and tired after the long march. A few miles to the north, between them and safety at Calais, three or four times that number of French soldiers, including thousands of knights in armour, were camped around Ruessauville, fresh, confident and eager to fight.

We followed the road that the English had taken on to an open plateau between the villages of Azincourt and Tramecourt, to north and south, and halted by a stone monument bearing the name of the former and the date, 1415. This was where the English had first seen the glittering array of the French, two

miles wide, barring their way. A practical soldier, Henry had advanced to a point where two woods, less than a mile apart, would offer him a length of front that he might be able to hold. While his knights stood in the open, he ordered his archers to line the edge of the woods and plant sharpened stakes in front of them. The woods are still there; those to the north now sparse, but those to the south still thick enough to stop a cavalry charge.

At a crossroads, a café and a petrol pump stand, with signs announcing essence, and that this is exactly where the Battle of Azincourt was fought. Ahead stretched ploughed fields that had been ploughed, too, on that October morning as the French advanced over them on foot.

They had advanced until their cavalry ordered to clear the English archers from the edge of the woods, had charged. Then the longbows had been loosed, and the cavalry wheeled away from the arrows, colliding with their own advancing foot-soldiers. They pushed forward by the ranks behind, were being compressed into the funnel of open field between the woods until they could hardly raise their sword arms.

The vast French army stalled in chaos, and then the English struck. It was all over quite quickly; the English victory was total, and the French losses colossal. An extraordinary event, it warranted all the flamboyance Shakespeare lavished upon it.

Anyone who had been there on that St Crispin's day would surely still recognize the battlefield. Apart from the café, the petrol pump and the roads, little has changed. Azincourt itself has only recently paid public attention to its fame. A few big, decorative drawings of medieval knights and archers have been fixed to farm buildings; the tiny

'Anyone who had been there on that St Crispin's day would surely still recognize the battlefield'

musée, which offers a modest audio-visual show in summer, was shut.

It was time for lunch and we turned towards Hesdin through the beech trees of the Forêt d'Hesdin. In the small, busy town, the sight of the hors-d'oeuvres trolley, heaped with fresh crudites, through the window of the Hotel de Flandres was enticing enough. At table, the map came out again and a destination sought for the afternoon. A familiar name stood out: Crécy.

A short drive to the south took us across the valley of the Authie and on to the battlefield of Crécy. Just above Crécy-en-Ponthieu is marked Moulin Edouard III. Beside the road is a mound where stood the windmill that was King Edward's command post in 1346 and where he had invested his son, the Black Prince, with his spurs after the victory. This battlefield had changed. On the road uphill from Crécy-en-Ponthieu, medieval pennants flutter and a windmill-shaped viewing-tower now stands. Around it is a garden, a car-park, with an "orientation board" to explain the battle.

The topography of the battlefield is more dramatic than that of Azincourt, for the French — again the flower of French chivalry pitted against the longbows — charged

uphill. There they died, among them the old, blind King of Bohemia, where he fell now stands a stone memorial, the Croix de Bohême.

The road back to Montreuil took us through the Forêt de Crécy, blazing with autumn colour; its glades quiet, despite walkers and parties of chasseurs, influenced, perhaps, by signs proclaiming "Zone de Silence". In silence, too, came thoughts of the past.

At Crécy, the memory has been well packaged; a satisfying excursion for tourists, and instructive for schools. Azincourt is different. There it almost seems as if the last English archer has just trudged off the battlefield and the last French knight dragged to the grave pit.

TRAVEL NOTES

Our weekend, arranged through Inntavel (0439 71111), offered return ferry crossings plus two nights and three main meals at the cosy Hotel-Restaurant Le Darnetel in Montreuil-sur-Mer in its Winter Inn brochure. Price £108 per person (two travelling) until April 30; £122 in May and June. More restaurant than hotel, its food proved a combination of the delicate and the robust; inexpensive, too, although the wine was not.

Taking your car for a ride

British Rail is expanding its Motorail service. Michael Dynes reports on the routes, quality of service and costs

In May, British Rail will introduce a Motorail route from London to Fort William, at the foot of Ben Nevis, as part of its expanding, and popular, car-rail service for the new season.

Passengers and their vehicles can already travel to a variety of destinations from London, including Carlisle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Inverness on both day and night trains. The Paddington to Penzance route has been dropped, however, because of lack of demand.

The car-rail service has changed dramatically since it was introduced in the 1960s. The old Motorail-only trains, restricted to those accompanied by cars, proved a poor commercial proposition and were abandoned.

Following a restructuring of Motorail operations, car-wagons now run on the back of conventional InterCity and sleeper trains, avoiding the risk of passenger and vehicle arriving at different destinations. Only covered wagons are used, thus reducing the risk of vandalism.

Last year, Motorail carried 32,000 vehicles and 60,000 passengers, bringing in £5 million — five per cent up on the previous year. BR is confident that the expansion will continue.

But the increase in demand for Motorail services begs explanation; they are not cheap. The cost of a single peak-time journey from London to Edinburgh, for example, is £105 per car, and £80 per passenger — barely competitive with the cost of an air ticket and a hire car.

Michael Beswick, InterCity's business products manager, says: "People use Motorail because they want to avoid the hassle of driving or hiring a car, and because they want the familiarity and comfort of their own vehicle."

At these prices it is perhaps not surprising that the Motorail customer profile is made up of someone from the South East, who is generally more affluent than the average InterCity customer, and Mr Beswick says, "who also expects a high level of service and quality".

After arriving one and a half hours before departure, to allow sufficient time for BR's drivers to load the vehicles into the car-wagons, passengers with first-class tickets can use the facilities of one of BR's best keep secrets — the Pullman Lounge.

Access is via an electronic entry-phone, and the lounge offers all the requirements of the business executive and leisured traveller — conference rooms, photocopier, telephones, champagne and gourmet sandwiches.

The contrast between travelling on the InterCity sleeper service and the more conventional BR services can be startling, and people could be forgiven for assuming that BR is running two railways.

BR rejects such allegations, arguing that the volume leisure and executive travel markets are quite distinct and have to be catered for separately. It says: "Everyone likes to travel in luxury, but the volume leisure market also has price expectations, and we have to strike a balance between the two."

Once aboard an InterCity sleeper, refreshments are available in the fully air-conditioned sleeper-cabins or from the lounge throughout the night. Passengers can book early-morning calls and order the traditional full English breakfast.

The Euston to Edinburgh run, leaving around midnight, takes about six and a half hours. Passengers can linger in their cabins until 8am.

Despite their ability to travel at more than 100mph, InterCity sleepers rarely go above 80mph, ensuring a smoother ride. "There's simply no need to race the trains. People don't want to arrive at ridiculously early hours in the morning," Mr Beswick says.

The schedule of services and peak and off-peak prices — including BR's "bargain basement" prices for the winter season — will be available shortly in the new Motorail brochure. For example, the off-peak single fare from London to Edinburgh is £65 per car and £80 per passenger. It is advisable to book well in advance.

The off-peak prices apply from this May until May next year — except for weekend journeys from mid-May to mid-September, all departures in late July, August, and September, and during the Christmas and Easter holiday periods.

TRAVEL BOOKS

Both of Jason Goodwin's grandmothers brought home tea caddies from their lives abroad — one in China, the other in India. The caddies became the inspiration for an unusual book, *The Gunpowder Gardens — Travels through India and China in Search of Tea* (Chatto & Windus, £14.95). Goodwin, a remarkably assured 25-year-old, travels first to China's European-style cities, and then on to India. He describes not only his own travels, but the trail of the adventurers and merchants whose quest for the world's most popular beverage (excluding water) has fuelled wars and revolutions. It is an old starting point for a travel book, and perhaps the historical overview is more interesting than the present day insights, but reading it will make you think twice before you put the kettle on to make a cuppa.

The second edition of *The Good Bed and Breakfast Guide* (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95) makes a welcome appearance this week. Published by the Consumer Association, this revised and updated guide lists more than 1,000 recommended B&Bs throughout Britain and the Channel Islands. The editors, Elsie Dillard and Susan Cassin, have stayed at all of them. Each B&B is described in a concise paragraph (including information on whether vegetarians are catered for, or pets welcomed) and there are none of the confusing symbols that litter many similar guides. Similarly indispensable is the *Rough Guide* series, which this month sees the addition of *Provence and the Côte d'Azur* (Harrap, £5.95) and *Yagoulaire* (£5.95), as well as an updated edition of *Britanny & Normandy* (£5.95).

Jenny Tabakoff

TRAVEL NEWS

on the pass would cost about £320, compared with the normal fare of about £565 — a saving of 43 per cent.

The pass is available to passengers holding an international ticket for travel by Qantas, into or out of Australia, and a minimum of three domestic sectors have to be booked. Tickets based on the special fares can be booked from travel agents and Qantas offices before departure, or in flight on the final sector of all Qantas flights into Australia. Information: 0345 747767.

Driving east

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary are featured for the first time this summer in the Hertz "Europe on Wheels" motoring-holiday programme. Typical daily rates for the hire of an economy car in Hungary, start at £20 for a rental of between three and six days, or £15 for rentals of more than 14 days. Information: 01-679 1799.

A day trip to Prague is being operated by GTF Tours on April 17. Departure is from Stansted Airport, and the £139 price-tag includes a guided tour of the city, a typical Czech lunch and visa. Information: 01-792 1260.

Malaysia by car

Independent self-drive holidays in Malaysia are now on the market from the Far East specialist, Magic of the Orient. The company can book accommodation if required, but otherwise travellers are issued with hotel vouchers, which can be used at more than 60 establishments throughout the country. Prices start at £1,014 for two weeks, including return flight from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, hire of an air-conditioned car with unlimited mileage and accommodation vouchers. Information: 01-937 5885.

Berlin breaks

Inntavel is using Dan-Air's new scheduled service from Gatwick to Berlin for a series of bargain breaks. A 24-hour trip is available daily, except

Friday and Saturday, from now until May 10 — apart from the Easter period — at £89 including bed-and-breakfast accommodation. Weekend breaks cost from £229 for three nights, with accommodation at a two-star hotel. Information: 0439 71111.

Shopping trip

Hong Kong may sound a long way to go for a short break, but Komet is offering four-night shopping packages there this summer, from £499. Accommodation is in a first-class hotel with a view of the harbour, and flights operate from Gatwick, on Tuesdays between June and September. A full week's stay in Hong Kong starts at £599. Information: 0306-740500.

Youth movement

Special low fares from the UK to Germany for people under 24 are now available from the German national airline, Lufthansa. The new youth fares can be booked on an "open door" basis, so that

passengers can fly to one destination and return from another. Typical return fares start at £70 for flights between London and Cologne or Düsseldorf. Lufthansa also has special introductory offers, valid until May 13, of £100 return on its new routes from Gatwick to Munich and Heathrow to Stuttgart, or £120 return from Manchester to Hamburg. Information: 01-408 0442.

The Swansea-Cork Ferries service across the Irish Sea is being reintroduced this year, with up to six return sailings a week between May 9 and September 30. One-way fares start at £75 for a car with up to four passengers. Information: 0792 456116.

Philip Ray

Icelandair (*The Times*, March 24) is now based at 172 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LG (01-388 5599). The Superper return fare is about £281. National tourist office, same address (01-388 5346).

Amsterdam Map
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TRAVEL

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Michael Watkins
rounds off his
sojourn in the
South Seas by
exploring the
pleasures and
customs of the
Fiji islands

There is something clandestine about arriving at a strange destination by night. From Suva's Nausori airport, on the main Fiji island of Viti Levu, I was escorted wordlessly to a car, bumped along an unmade road to a jetty and loaded, like contraband, on to a waiting launch which immediately cast off.

The helmsman stared into the eel-black dark, navigating an estuary, then the chop-chop of open sea. After 40 minutes he spoke his first words: "There is the island." Toberua. He relaxed perceptibly, showing very white teeth. Ahead there was candlelight; the sound of a guitar. I jumped ashore, and into the embrace of a woman who placed a lei around my neck and warm lips on mine, as is the custom.

The four-acre island is owned by Michael Dennis, a New Zealander. There are several bures, huts constructed of wood and woven walls rising to a ceiling 25ft high. There was good food and much friendliness.

One day I went with Mr Dennis to the neighbouring island of Moturiki, wading ashore to the school where he was to present speech-day prizes. But first there were formalities to be observed.

Cross-legged, we squatted with the elders, many of them tattooed, for the sev'u sev'u ceremony, the welcome drink, which is prepared to the accompaniment of a hymn of grunts and clapping of hands. The yagosa root is immersed in water and pummelled until a greyish juice, kava, is collected; then more and still more. Dispensed in coconut husks to a ritual of glottal chants, it is offered to honoured guests to whom it becomes incumbent to bow, clap once, drain the lot, then clap thrice before rolling one's eyeballs in seraphic appreciation, exclaiming "yum-yum" or sentiments to that effect. Vintage kava tastes of squeezed

washing-up cloth and is said to induce numbness rather than drunkenness. In my case it did not prove habit-forming, a reaction which was accepted on the grounds, I supposed, that the slackness of my abstinence was taken up elsewhere.

Despite the therapeutic claims of kava, one could not help noticing certain locomotive difficulties and a degree of absenteeism at the prize-giving, which was followed by a men-only meal at which we dipped fingers into bowls of this and that as children sang and danced outside in torrential rain.

It was an occasion of immense charm; more character-building than when I trod the length of Great School to collect Sir J.W. Kay's *Lives of Indian Officers*.

On another day I pounded the streets of Suva, the Fiji capital on Viti Levu; not the most appealing city, but not the worst by a long chalk. It began to self-destruct in the 1950s when Indians were seen to outnumber native Fijians. The culmination was in 1987 when an army lieutenant-colonel, Sitiveni Rabuka, led his soldiers into Parliament House to march the prime minister away. The coup was motivated by racialism, not by political idealism, and the results were catastrophic; the sugar industry collapsing, tourist hotels plunging to 5 per cent occupancy.

Suva had its share of touts, beggars and bad smells; dusty shoe shops, cheap watches and T-shirts with achingly unfunny slogans. It felt stale, but I felt not a moment's concern for my safety.

I enjoyed the harbour setting, blue mountains beyond. At the airline offices they were very polite, but I wasn't tempted to sell up and move to Suva tomorrow.

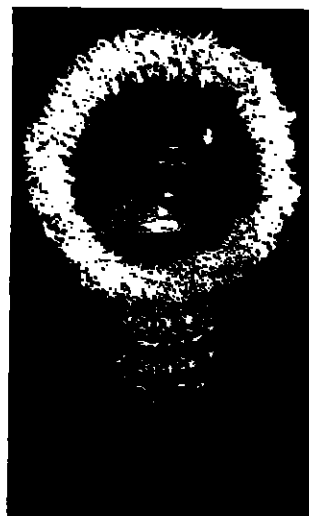
Back on Toberua I met a man with red hair and a red beard who told me he was patching up his 25ft glass-fibre boat, which had bust on the



A feast from the trees: fresh coconuts are there for the taking by the skillful climber. Right: a welcoming lei of exotic flowers

TRAVEL NOTES

- Michael Watkins flew from Nadi to London via Los Angeles with Air New Zealand (01-680 3434). London-Nadi economy return £935 (April 1 to June 30), business economy, £1,492 each way.
- His ground arrangements were made by Elegant Resorts, Lion House, 23 Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE (0244 325620), which can arrange independent packages to include Toberua and The Fiji Rent. It also offers a seven-night stay at Forbes Laucala Resort, for approximately £1,562 for two, inclusive of all meals, wine, sailing and so on, but excluding plane transfers.
- Transfer arrangements in Fiji were handled by United Touring International (01-586 2606).



Teutonic tonic full of heady surprises

Hilary Finch
basks in the
splendours of
Freiburg and
the Black Forest

There were 42 varieties of olives in the market in 42 wooden vats. There were wide-faced sunflowers and straw shoes; and the aroma from the garlands of garlic and tables of Provencal lavender was as stunning to the senses as the sun which bounced back from the cobble to blind cathedral-darkened eyes. Olive oil filled tall bottles, and oleander, hibiscus and bougainvillea bloomed in the stonemason's yard.

I was not in Aix-en-Provence, or Arles or Avignon. I was in Freiburg, every bit as German as its name, yet basking in the luxuriant shelter of the Swiss Jura to the south, the Vosges to the west, and the Schwarzwald to the east. The leaves of a cinnamon tree were found among the fossils of this area, which once had a subtropical climate. Even now, thanks to warm winters and early springs, cherries bloom here earlier than anywhere in northern Europe.

As if the climate were not cause enough for an identity crisis, Freiburg has switched nationality throughout its history. Austrian for more than 400 years, it snuggled under the wing of the Hapsburgs in 1368, only to become French under Louis XIV, Austrian again in 1698, and part of Napoleon's Grand Duchy of Baden in 1805. Only in 1952, after further French occupa-

tion in 1946, did Freiburg become part of West Germany's Baden-Württemberg. Its vacillation is voiced in its dialect (an Alemannic Thers are still going strong). Its pivotal position on the old trade route from Austria to France is celebrated in its market produce, its Salzstrasse, its every paving stone.

At one's feet lies a mesmeric and ever-changing mosaic of subtle colours and shapes. Spanish and Italian tradesmen had the idea of fashioning Freiburg's streets from the granite, sandstone and slate pebbles of the Rhine.

Stones still more precious were brought from the forests of Bohemia to be cut and polished in Freiburg. The craft is maintained in a shop called Edelsteine, run by the Trenkle brothers, just off the main Kaiser-Josef Strasse. Cornelian and aquamarine, emerald and amber, moonstone and malachite glow in every stage of cultivation in a shop which has all the fatal lure of

the lodestone itself. In the 13th century, silver was found just south-east of Freiburg, high in the hills of the Schauenland. I drove out to "look into the country", as its name invites one to do, and found myself surrounded by great curves of bare hills, their timber once used to prop up the silver mines, their wealth worked out by monks who founded the onion-towered monasteries which dot these foothills of the Black Forest. Along the road between the Glöttental and the Müntertal, 3,775ft up, stand big, old farmhouse-hotels.

I descended the Müntertal at dusk and discovered, glowing stark and white, the little Romanesque church of St Cyriak at Sulzburg. This forgotten village, in the Middle Ages a flourishing Jewish community and still retaining its synagogue and cemetery, does not expect tourists: fish swim in its fountain and old barrels and tubs lean in weary recollection of past laundry days around its water pump.

Another day, I left Freiburg via the Glöttental because I felt I ought to see a Black Forest lake. I passed fields of maize and sunflowers, pigs, beehives and crucifixes, guesthouses eager to refresh me with a glass of their rose, late autumnal Glöttentaler Weissbier, and found myself climbing to St Peter, a community of 2,000, built around the colle-



Top: the ornate cathedral clock and cuckoo-clock shop sign. Above: unusual restaurant sign and a decorated period house



giate church founded in 1100. Now a Benedictine monastery, complete with library, spa and retreat houses, St Peter focuses on a twin-towered baroque church which belonged to the dukes who founded Freiburg. They usurped the place of the apostles on the interior pillars, and decked the church in gold leaf and white glaze. The

monks, who cultivated the area, taught the clockmakers of the Black Forest their skills: the art reaches its apotheosis on the shores of Lake Titisee, where several hundred examples swing and squeak out their manic existence in shops which line the once silent strand.

An admirable network of buses and little trains connects the Titisee to villages such as

TRAVEL NOTES

- Hilary Finch flew Lufthansa (01-408 0442) to Frankfurt (£58 Apex return to £358 first class) and on to Freiburg by rail (2½ hours).
- She stayed at the Hotel zum Roten Bären, Oberlinden 12, (010 49 76 136913), from £55 per night, b&b.
- DER (01-408 0111) offers seven, 10 and 14-night holidays in Freiburg from £272 (rail, seven days) to £844 (air, 14 days).
- German National Tourist Office, 85 Curzon Street, W1Y 7PE (01-495 3990/1).

St Märgen, Hinterzarten, with its great 18th-century spa hotel, and back to Freiburg. Not for nothing is the sunflower ubiquitous. For Freiburg is the green city *par excellence*. Only trams are allowed within the old town centre, 80 per cent of which was destroyed in the Second World War.

A good second best is the Insel, a network of tiny canals and arms of the River Dreisam, a tributary of the Rhine, which once provided water for tanners, dyers and stonecutters, and now adds its sound effects to the toytown of artisans' shops.

The old Augustine Münster was miraculously untouched by the air-raid which claimed 3,000 lives. Europe's first-ever slender, lacy pyramid of a Gothic spire looks down on the great west door, where the outline of 13th-century leaf measures are etched in stone.

The Marktplatz once sat here and kept their eyes on medieval fair-trading. Now, Black Forest honeys compete in darkness and price, and the olive man submits his 42 varieties to public trial.